

inside SOCCER



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MANCHESTER United are being heralded as the likely opening act for the new Docklands Stadium as Melbourne joins the soccer juggernaut.

But Soccer Australia has

poured cold water on the idea of the Red Devils facing the Socceroos.

Instead the English legends might be teamed up with top Euro opposition on another night of nights for soccer.



BOBBY McLachlan, the coach who brought Gippsland Falcons into the NSL, is back in big league Victorian soccer.

McLachlan stepped into the hot seat at Premier League

Springvale White Eagles last week.

He has a big job on hands to ensure survival in a season which will see four teams relegated but is looking forward to the challenge.

MAN U FOR OZ?

BOBBY MAC BACK

UNITED CAN WIN LEAGUE

by Bruce Campbell

**1999
WORLD
YOUTH CUP**
*Aussies
kick
off with win*



**FULL FOUR
PAGE
COVERAGE**

SYDNEY United assistant coach Lawrie McKinna believes that his cash-strapped club has the ball at its feet - with the ultimate target being this season's league premiership.

"We have got four games to go," he said as *Inside Soccer* went to print on the eve of his club's clash with Canberra Cosmos.

"If we win all of our games then we shall win the league, it is as simple as that."

This season the coaching duo of Davie Mitchell and Lawrie McKinna has stunned everybody in soccer - except those that know them well.

With a slim budget, and surrounded by financial woes and off-field strife which has ripped the west Sydney powerhouse to shreds, the Scots-born pair have kept United's challenge alive on the field.

"We have a great team here," adds McKinna who once played for Kilmarnock before spells with Heidelberg, APIA, Blacktown and Newcastle.

"Everybody involved with the football side of the club has done a great job and they deserve everything that comes their way."

"It would be nice to win the league, especially for those who have shown such faith in us, but we want to win

the Grand Final more than anything else.

"I've been together with Mitch for two and a half years, including a spell at Olympic, and we must be doing something right because we have been successful."

And while more NSL teams are going full time McKinna points to the club's almost light hearted training pattern as one of their successes.

"Some people laugh at us when they find out we only train two nights and Saturday mornings," he says.

"I know coaches who train up to thirteen times a week - but it isn't how much, it is what you do that counts."

"At United we don't complicate anything and we make the sessions really intense."

"So far this season nobody has run us off the park so we must be doing it right."

This Sunday, Sydney United play what is surely their biggest game for some seasons.

They take on South Melbourne at Edensor Park in a game which will likely decide who goes first past the post.

But McKinna has no fears. - Last Wednesday the former striker



Lawrie McKinna: teaming up with Davie Mitchell at United - but will they go first past the post?

and his boss flew to Melbourne at their own expense to spy on the South v Perth fixture.

"We saw something there from

both teams that we can exploit," he says.

"Sydney United can win this competition, it is up to us now."

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Asian soccer supremo appeals to superpowers

By Jeremy Walker

ASIAN soccer chief Peter Velappan is asking for Europe and South America to help end the dispute over places for the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Speaking during a visit to Tokyo, Velappan said the two soccer superpowers should show understanding and solidarity to end a threatened Asian boycott of the qualifying tournament.

When FIFA decided the allocation of places for the 32-team finals last December, Asia was awarded only four, including two automatic spots for the co-hosts.

For the last World Cup in France, Asia had three places plus the chance of a fourth via a playoff against the Oceania champions.

That playoff spot for 2002 has been given to the fifth-placed South American team, and the Kuala Lumpur-based Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is demanding that FIFA return it to

Asia, giving the host continent the opportunity of a fifth place.

The issue will be resolved at a FIFA executive council meeting in Los Angeles in July.

Velappan, general secretary of the AFC, said FIFA president Sepp Blatter was "very sympathetic" with the Asians' case.

"He feels that Asia deserves more than we have now, and the president himself will play a key role in this.

"We remain very optimistic we will have a little more than what we have now," said Velappan, who is also FIFA's coordinator for the 2002 World Cup.

Velappan added, "I cannot tell you precisely where the extra place will come from, but definitely the two continents who should demonstrate some understanding and solidarity will be Europe and South America.

"Europe has 14 plus one (France, the holders) and CONMEBOL (South America) has four and a half (the playoff



spot)."

Regarding the boycott threat, Velappan said, "It will be a great pity if we

have to resort to this drastic action, especially when we are home to the World Cup, and hope-

fully FIFA will be much more sympathetic and understanding to our case."

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Charlie backs Bobby's bid

by Bruce Campbell

OCEANIA confederations president Charlie Dempsey has rarely been out of the soccer firing line in the last few years – at least from an Australian perspective.

And his latest bombshell is sure to ruffle quiet a few antipodean feathers over the next few weeks.

Dempsey, a migrant Scot now resident in Auckland, has pledged his vote to England in the battle to host the 2006 World Cup and, like his colleague at FIFA world HQ, his single stance is sure to be the subject of debate at the next OFC meeting.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter was the subject of recent controversy after he went public on his opinions of a two-yearly World Cup without first discussing the issue with his executive.

Former England great

Sir Bobby Charlton and campaign director Alec McGivan reached New Zealand on the latest leg of their vote-catching crusade and Dempsey assured them; "my vote will be with England."

Germany is favoured to win the right to host the World Cup when the 24 executive members vote next year.

But Charlton said he was committed to leading the tournament back to England for the first time since he played on the winning team in 1966.

"Everyone tells me football is the world's largest industry," Charlton said.

"In England there is a sense of great pride as we invented the rules of the great game.

"Our business now is to try and get the World Cup back to England in 2006.

"It is an easy case for me to sell.



Sir Bobby Charlton: all time legend who has wooed OFC boss Charlie Dempsey.

"I have had so much pleasure from the game."

While Charlton will go down as one of the game's all time greats the OFC boss might have taken time out to correct

his misinformation on England's role in the development of the game.

Particularly with the knowledge that his former country, Scotland, did so much to shape

what was little more than a private school form of what is now rugby football until the onset of the ball dribbling style and, later professionalism, of the northerners.



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Mitch firms as Oz favourite

By Paul Millar

SOCCER Australia has given its strongest indication so far that a local coach could take charge of the Socceroos.

With clubs already secretly approaching coaches for next season as the national league season draws to a close, SA chairman Basil Scarsella has warned potential contenders for the national team job not to sign deals that rule them out.

"My advice is that they get a clause in the contract to say that they would be released if they were offered the national job," Scarsella said.

Sydney United coach Dave Mitchell has firmed as a front

runner for the job after guiding his cash-strapped club to joint leadership in the national league.

Mitchell and another favourite, Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic, are both out of contract at the end of the season and have already been approached by other clubs.

Krncevic has been linked to the incoming Auckland-based side the Football Kings while Mitchell has had several approaches from national league sides.

Krncevic will talk with the new owners of Carlton over the coming weeks, but has made it clear that he needs more quality players there to be a serious challenger for

honours next season.

Carlton dropped out of the play-off race with the 3-1 loss to Marconi and Krncevic's profile is likely to suffer because of it.

Mitchell however has worked wonders with United, which is now in the hands of an administrator.

"My main concern now is the league but of course I'm worried about the long-term future of the club," Mitchell said.

"I think the people that are making the decisions about the national job need to look worldwide but if they think I'm capable then of course it would be a great honour," he said.

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Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

VERY SHORTLY Soccer Australia will start its serious deliberations concerning next year's National Soccer League. It would seem that Auckland Kings are definitely in, making a total of sixteen clubs.

I would welcome that because the bye game has proved nothing short of disastrous for a lot of clubs. Because of the vagaries of the draw for 98/99 it has meant that clubs have sometimes gone a whole month without a home game.

That is no way to promote a serious national level sporting competition. It is also a recipe for a cash flow heart attack.

Hopefully when next season's draw is issued the basic principle of home and away in alternate weeks is adhered to.

So, will there be any casualties from this season? A few clubs have sailed very close to the wind while two have called in an administrator to handle their affairs. Both Sydney United and Adelaide Sharks have given brilliant service to the game in both State and National Leagues over a long period of time and I am sure that they both have an army of support to maintain their NSL status.

But with clubs being asked to step up to an annual budget of \$5million in the next couple of years it is hard to see how a club which can't survive economically in the present climate would even want to take on the extra burden. That, of course, is their right and they should be given the opportunity to control their own destiny.

I have fond memories of my own three year business relationship with Sydney United and wish them all the best.

There is also talk of various other consortiums coming into the league; central Sydney, western Sydney, conglomerate Adelaide, west Melbourne and even another Perth bid.

One thing is certain, that no new club will get in unless an existing one doesn't meet the requirements. For that reason, I really can't see a second Perth bid being anything more than a logistical exercise. Ditto, Adelaide and Melbourne.

That leaves Sydney.

Don't be too surprised if there is a major change with at least one present Sydney NSL club before June. It may be that a prominent member club of the National League goes in a different direction.

There is also the possibility that Sydney United will not be able to come up with the required financial guarantee but somehow I think they will survive - in one form or another.

Will there be another bid admitted from a Sydney consortium?

There are two parties who have already expressed an interest but their chances would seem to hinge on whether or not Sydney United survive. Other than that it is not likely that the league will increase the Sydney representation, particularly at a time when there is a growing wave of opinion that there is already one club too many.

Newcastle may have a very real problem if their takeover doesn't happen but most people involved in the game expect them to be there regardless. Similarly, the existence of Wollongong, Canberra and Brisbane seems assured, even if some of those clubs have major problems to address.

But I believe that the biggest shake-up could come in the National Youth League which has not really come anywhere near to fulfilling its potential.

Indication from Tasmania is that they are seeking some sort of future representation in the Victorian based Southern Division. That would see a welcome expansion of that particular division which this year has only featured seven teams.

The jump between the youth league and the NSL, however, remains too large. It doesn't seem a practical step for clubs to invest more, or even expand their current programmes, when the return from youth league is so small.

Some of the current teams are under 17s while others have an older age group making it very difficult for them to compete on an even basis - and looking at the standings in the northern and southern division it really isn't difficult to see who is what while the South Australian division is little more than a glorified Adelaide summer competition which fits nicely into the State League summer window of opportunity.

The introduction of a second division would, therefore, seem to be the answer to all sorts of problems.

Clubs struggling for a financial and supporter base could slip down to a lower level, with the hope of being able to come back up, while there would be a bridge between youth and senior leagues.

It seems that in recent weeks there has been a set-back with State federations moving towards summer competition, which is necessary to act as a platform for the establishment of a second division.

June, will certainly be an interesting month - for more than one reason. But I suspect that at the end of it that the current status quo will be maintained with the addition of the Auckland Kings.

Think Big

WITH the NSL finals series approaching it would appear that Northern Spirit will make the Top Six.

At this stage South Melbourne and Perth must be favoured for the coveted one and two spots.

A Spirit v Olympic (especially) or even Marconi or Sydney United match home and away would undoubtedly result in a record NSL finals crowd wherever it is played.

This brings me to the question of a suitable venue and why the new Olympic stadium, if available, should be closely considered.

Of course, soccer will not fill such a large venue even if they follow the NRL policy and give away countless tickets.

Nevertheless, when you consider that Spirit should be good for at least 20,000 plus and Olympic up to 10,000 at any decent venue the basis for a very healthy crowd is already there.

Add to this the glamour, prestige and novelty value of the new Olympic Stadium then a crowd in the vicinity of 40-50 thousand, weather permitting, would not be unrealistic and in fact could be conservative.

This would also be the first soccer match at the Olympic Stadium and would entice many neutral and half-hearted

followers of the game with many coming from outside the Sydney metropolitan area.

Unlike the upcoming World XI exhibition match the admission prices would be affordable for most people.

With a little bit of luck this type of match could do more to enhance the status of the NSL than untold millions spent on paid promotions.

Sponsors will love it and the rare bonus good publicity soccer will get Australia-wide will be priceless.

Think big Soccer Australia.

Robert Melor
Bondi NSW

(Despite my front page story last week about the blatant rip-off in opera-

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Mark Bosnich: reader J Hughes from Modbury has read enough

tion at every level in Stadium Australia I couldn't agree more.

Should the possibility of a Grand final present itself then this would have to be the ultimate choice - just for those reasons.

A word of warning, though - start saving.

The only fly in the ointment could be your choice of teams.

On current form Sydney United would be the shoe-in from Sydney.

But then the ball is round and anything can, and often does, happen. - Ed.

Stadium Shocker
YOUR front page story last week was spot on.

Amazingly there was little negative publicity attached to the Rugby League game at Stadium Australia.

However, it took a pop

concert to open up what is obviously a can of worms. It would seem to me that Stadium Australia

is trying to extract every cent out of the sporting public to pay for what could well become a white elephant.

Once the euphoria and novelty has worn off, and the Olympics have come and gone, the likelihood is that the average Aussie will be sick and tired of going to Homebush Bay as well as being totally skint.

Then it will probably be back to the Sydney Football Stadium, along with traffic jams et al, for the majority of sporting events.

The reason is obvious - Stadium Australia is just too big and because of that will be too expensive to hire.

'Gunner'
Campbelltown NSW

Bozza No More
WHAT has happened to your weekly coverage of Mark Bosnich, it is al-

most dropping to an acceptable level?

I'll be glad when he transfers to what ever club his greedy hands take him to and we can get on with reading about other players.

J Hughes

Modbury SA

(Oh, you are a fickle bunch you football fans.

I can well remember the time that you couldn't get enough of Mr Bosnich. Has he become too good a player, too big a celebrity for you to handle? Good luck to Bozza - and all the other Aussies who are making a living out of football. I know of countless other very talented players of just a decade ago who made next to nothing out of the game. - Ed.)

Wollongong Football Fans

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Ilic chooses words over strike action in Kosovo protest

AUSSIE-born goalkeeper Sasa Ilic ignored a Yugoslav call for overseas players to boycott their teams, but still managed to protest Nato air strikes, calling for a halt to the bombings in his club's match programme.

Ilic, born in Melbourne, chose Yugoslavia over the Socceroos last year and has made one appearance for the Balkan side.

In England, he plays for Charlton, defeated 1-0 on Saturday by Chelsea in a Premiership match.

At the beginning of last week, Ilic was understood to be considering whether to heed the boycott call by the Yugoslav Football Federation to footballers in Nato states and cease playing for the relegation-threatened south London club.

"Sasa is in a very difficult position - he's a

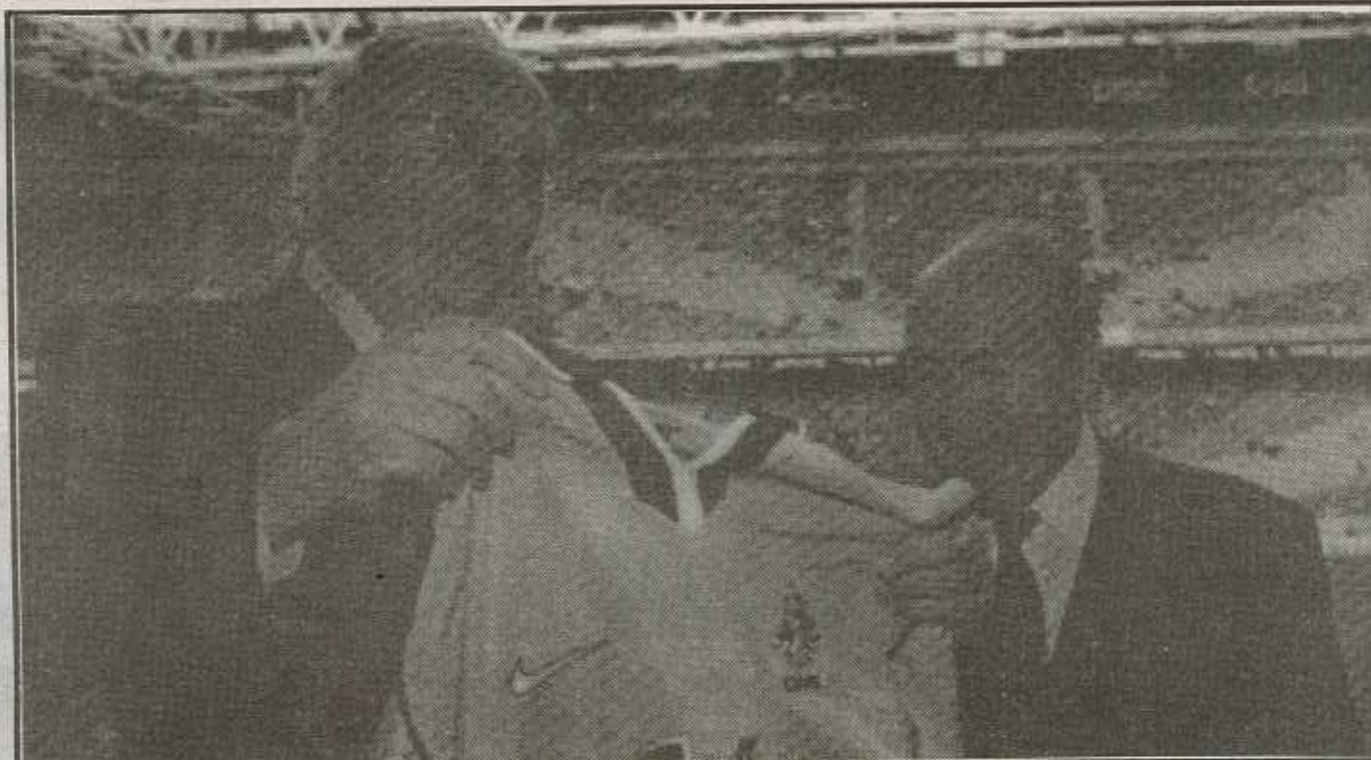
player trying to build a career in this country and I'm not sure what it would achieve for that career by going on strike," Charlton managing director Peter Varney said.

Ilic apparently resolved his dilemma by playing for his team, but writing an impassioned article which pleaded for the bombing to stop.

After eleven minutes he allowed the only goal of the match, a deadly accurate shot by Chelsea's Roberto Di Matteo.

Charlton campaigned to the whistle, but its rival never looked like surrendering its early lead.

Meanwhile in Glasgow Croatian-Aussie Mark Viduka continued his goal scoring form by smashing home a header just before half time as Celtic kept up its pressure on leaders Rangers with a 5-0 win.



Blatter promises Oz one million plus

THE 203 members of football's world governing body FIFA will each receive 225,000 Euros (\$A381,500) a year for four years, FIFA president Sepp Blatter announced at a news conference on the weekend.

Blatter said FIFA's members would now directly benefit from television rights negotiated by FIFA for the last eight years.

Blatter also said in the next four years FIFA would provide 230 million Euros for national federations to develop the sport. A special FIFA commission would ensure the sharing out of this money to each country, he said.

"This money is destined for each member, but especially for developing countries.

"Each country should

be able to have stadiums like the Arena Stadium of Amsterdam, football schools and good pitches," Blatter said.

"FIFA wants to help the small countries."

Blatter also confirmed the organisation of a world club championship, set for January 2000 in Brazil, as first revealed in the FIFA executive committee meeting on March 11 and 12 in Zu-

rich. Each confederation - Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, South America and North America - would send one team for an event spanning about 12 days.

UEFA, the European governing body, is against the tournament, but Blatter is determined it should go ahead.

"If the European Champions League winner doesn't come, we will

have another team," Blatter said.

"I understand the reservations of UEFA concerning fixture congestion, but such a tournament is good for football. All countries need to harmonise their fixtures. If all leagues run from February to November, there would be no problem, even with a World Cup every two years."

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Viduka transfer decision delayed

By Trevor Marshalsea

FIFA will decide the Mark Viduka transfer wrangle in May, a spokesman for soccer's governing body has said.

The spokesman said all details required for the inquiry over the Socceroo striker's transfer from Croatia Zagreb to Celtic had been received.

"The matter will be decided at the next meeting of our Player Status Committee in May," the FIFA spokesman said.

After receiving a detailed deposition from Celtic, FIFA asked for more information from Zagreb and Viduka's old club Melbourne Knights, which is entitled to a share of the transfer fee.

Celtic has refused to pay Zagreb the full agreed Stg2 million (\$A7.76 million) transfer fee for Viduka.

The striker switched to



the club in December, but took two months off immediately, citing emotional stress.

Amid reports suggesting that Viduka fears his Stg1.5 million share of the transfer fee will not be passed onto him, Celtic recently moved to split the fee three ways.

It sent Zagreb its Stg900,000 (\$A2.32 million) share, and intended making separate payments to Viduka and Melbourne Knights, set

to receive Stg600,000 (\$A1.55 million) from a transfer-on clause.

Zagreb protested to FIFA, prompting the current inquiry.

Celtic would risk losing points or being banned from European competition if it refused any FIFA order to pay Zagreb the full amount.

Despite the dispute, Viduka has impressed with a spate of goals in his first few games for Celtic.

Docklands debut for Red Devils

By Paul Millar.

MELBOURNE Major Events is believed to be negotiating a deal to bring English soccer giant Manchester United to Melbourne to open the Docklands Stadium.

Rumours are rife in soccer circles that the former European champion are the prize target to open the stadium on the edge of Melbourne's CBD.

Melbourne Major Events Chief Ron Walker said any comments would have to come from the Premier's office but nobody from the Premier's office made themselves available to talk about it.

International Management Group spokesman Bernie Mandic said if United was to come to Australia it wouldn't be playing the national team.

"We have spoken to Soccer Australia about bringing teams like Manchester United, AC Milan, Barcelona and Real Madrid here but they said



they didn't want to know," Mandic said.

"The national team would have nothing to gain by playing a club side because if they beat a club side all they were doing was beating a club side and if they got thrashed they had plenty to lose."

He said he had heard

talk about bringing sides out but it was more likely that if United did come out it would be to play against another quality international side.

Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella said he had not been approached about the Socceroos playing United.

IMG has stitched up a contract where Soccer superpower Brazil will play in Sydney and in Melbourne in November.

Soccer sources in Melbourne said that United agents were already in town and were looking at a game in July possibly against one of the major Greek clubs.

Ogston claims place in history

Queensland referee Tammy Ogston has claimed a place in soccer history as the first Australian female appointed to the FIFA Women's World Cup.

Ogston, the only Oceania referee selected for the June-July World Cup in

the United States, secured her historic call-up after impressing officials at the recent Algarve Cup in Portugal.

She refereed both the finals of the Australian Cup and Ansett Australia Summer Series and is one of 31 officials chosen for the 3rd FIFA Women's World Cup.

The Matildas suffered a humiliating set-back at the Algarve Cup, finishing in fifth place.



LINDEMANS

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The attack of the Kangaroos

ATHENS, Greece ... home to the Acropolis ... home of the Parthenon ... home of one ex-patriot Wollongong Wolf, Alvin Ceccoli - or Alvin TSE-KOLI, as they refer to him at AEK Athens ...

It's Saturday afternoon in Athens. The streets are quiet - or as quiet as they can be ... there are no League games due to the evening's European Championship Fixture between Greece and Norway ... and Mr Ceccoli is taking it easy, with training another hour away.

It wasn't always this easy though.

Six weeks ago, life was living out of a suitcase in a hotel, with no car, little language and a vault into European competition.

"I found the first few weeks of trying to settle in pretty hard actually, between the jet lag, new surroundings, no permanent base, and what I found initially to be difficult and exhaustive training sessions," says Ceccoli.

"It's all come together now though - I've settled into the training routine.

"It was good to get those first few games

Wolf mixes it with the big names in Athens

under my belt - and I've finally got the phone connected at home."

Right now, life for Ceccoli is as part of the AEK squad, with more time on the bench than off it, but it's something this Australian is taking in his stride.

"There are two of us here that fill the left wing back position, myself and basically the star of the team, who incidentally also plays for the National team," says the Soccerroo.

"He was out injured when I arrived so I was able to play four straight games when I first got here, and overall the reactions were that I performed quite well.

"Hopefully that's in the back of the coach's mind, and in the meantime, I'll just have to bide my time.

"I was able to score my first goal for the club in that time though, and

that's probably been the biggest on-field moment here so far, scoring a goal in front of a home crowd that went absolutely ballistic."

AEK is currently running second to League leader Olympiakos by five points, and with 10 games to go in the season, Ceccoli feels his team is in a good position for Champions League contention next year.

In the meantime, there's been some off-field excitement for Ceccoli, thanks to his teammate, Liberian Calvin Sebwe.

Last week Sebwe introduced the Australian to a mate of his ... AC Milan star and former World Player of the Year George Weah.

"It was pretty cool actually, George and Calvin are team-mates in their National team, and George had the weekend off in Italy, so he came

over to Athens and we just hung around," says Ceccoli.

"He's actually very down to earth, very natural, which is the key I believe as to why he does so well. He doesn't act as if he's a star and meeting him was a good experience for me.

"He also mentioned that he's looking forward to seeing Australia when he comes out for the FIFA game on June 12, and would exchange jerseys if we're on the field together."

June could be a very hectic month for Ceccoli, who marries his fiancée Eva on June 13 ... but apart from planning weddings and meeting world superstars, the plethora of Australians currently plying their trade in Greece hasn't been lost on him.

"When I got here in my first week, I bumped into Mario Jermen who was



staying in the same hotel as me, and he signed with PAOK of Salonika a week later," adds the on-loan Wollongong player.

"Last week I ran across former National League player Peter Lahanas who plays with Apollo, and that was literally on the street.

"I was with a group of people, he was in a car

caught in traffic, we saw each other and it was a hi and bye sort of thing.

"And my team will be playing Andy Vlahos' team (Panathinaikos) in a few weeks, so I'm looking forward to catching up with him as well."

The Greeks called it "the attack of the Kangaroos" recently - they may not be too far wrong.

Moore heading back to Ibrox

Craig Moore's projected swift return to Scottish giant Rangers is nearing completion with the player eager to rejoin the soccer club he left earlier this season.

The Australian international defender departed for Crystal Palace for Stg800,000 in October after he rejected a new Ibrox deal.

Manager Dick Advocaat was disappointed at losing the player and now with Palace's financial problems is poised to welcome Moore back.

Talks are understood to now be ongoing between Rangers and the player's agent John Viola with a view to agreeing a possible four-year deal.

He said: "It's not an easy deal.

"But I'm sure it will be finalised, and Craig is delighted at the prospect of being on his way back to Ibrox."

"There are still one or two items to be cleared up over the transfer, but we are optimistic a deal can be completed soon."

It's raining goals in Perth

by Inside Soccer cadet reporter Luke Bear

PERTH Glory have been a sensation this season, boasting even bigger crowds than the record numbers which have clicked through their Perth Oval ground in the last two seasons.

There is little doubt that the soccer mad fans in Perth come out in such big numbers because of the attacking style which typifies Glory's play.

With forwards of the calibre of John Markovski, Alistair Edwards, Vas Kalogeracos, Con Boutsianis and Bobby Despotovski fighting for places it is always likely to be raining goals in WA.

Glory striker Despotovski is one particular favourite with the Perth fans.

"Bernd Stange plays an attacking style of football so he hasn't really changed our style of play that much," says the striker.

"John Markovski has been injured recently with a calf strain but he'll be back shortly.

"When John arrived



from Carlton he helped a lot because he took a lot of the pressure of the team by scoring goals.

"But now he is injured that pressure is now back on myself and Alistair Edwards."

Despotovski previously played with Heidelberg United and Gippsland Falcons although he doesn't rate the Morwell experience as a high spot

only getting on park once - against Newcastle when he scored the winner.

He has also played in the Yugoslavia second division and with prominent WA State League side, Floreat.

These days he is one part of the success story that has the fans turn up in ever increasing numbers.

for a first or second position this season."

Despite last Wednesday's away loss to South Melbourne, Perth Glory are a strong tip for the championship.

Their big advantage, other than the obvious one of distance, is that of a full time professional set up.

Despotovski has no doubts that this is a major factor in his side's success this season.

"I think that the professional clubs will always go alright," he says.

"It is really important that the other clubs in the National League also go full time.

"Our success is also due to the amount of advertising that we do.

"If you don't advertise in the papers and on TV then no one knows who you are."

Should Glory make the Grand Final then there is little doubt that everyone will know who Bobby Despotovski is.

Should that Grand Final be in Perth then there will 50,000 fans who will know who he is - whether he scores the winner or not.

Stanton re-signs for Wollongong

WOLLONGONG Wolves have been getting over the disappointments of a season which never quite happened for them by the steady re-signing of players for next season.

With a Top Six spot secured last time round most pundits in the game thought that coach Nick Theodorakopoulos would consolidate his side this season.

But the loss of players such as Neil Harlock, Michael Reda, Tony Perinich and 'keeper Brett Hughes was a void which was never truly filled.

In recent weeks goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame has displaced season starter Les Pogliacomini in the team's starting line-up and the word around Brandon Park is that the club is looking to add some experience to that department for next season.

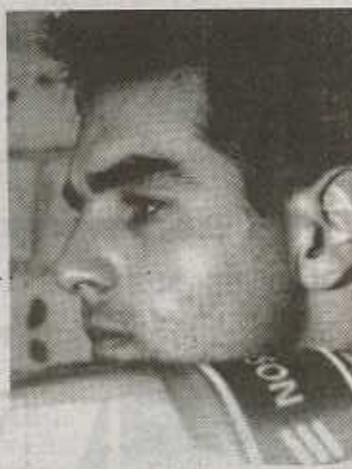
But one welcome re-signing is that of established sweeper Robbie Stanton (pictured).

The former Sydney United and Marconi player is a crowd favourite at Brandon Park and recently he put pen to paper in a deal which will see him stay a Wolf for another two seasons.

"We are absolutely delighted that Robert has agreed to stay at Wollongong," said General Manager Graeme Haney who has also announced the re-signing of Beltrame as well as defender David Huxley.

Meanwhile Scott Chipperfield has yet to put pen to paper and it looks like he may well leave the club.

Both Carlton and Northern Spirit are said to be front runners to sign the player who was capped for Australia in the disastrous Oceania Cup tournament last October.



Bingley, a boost for Spirit's finals chances

by Ben Coonan

AS ANOTHER Ericsson Cup year draws to an end, so do many teams aspirations for achievement in the 1998-1999 season.

One club that has most certainly not under-achieved, and still very much in the hunt for premiership glory is Northern Spirit.

Few will argue that Graham Arnold has assembled a fine team, and the squad has performed impeccably in it's inaugural season.

To further boost the sides chances of a first place in it's first season, Arnold has signed Socceroo utility Matthew Bingley.

Before featuring in the Spirit line-up, "Bingers" as he is known to his team mates enjoyed a stint in Japan with both Vissel Kobe and JEF United, recalling seeing his name on banners around his home ground as a fond memory.

"I would do it again, if I had the time again," says Bingley who was a consistent starter in front of home crowds that pulled 15,000 to 20,000 to each match without fail.

Despite the crowd figures being a little higher than the Spirit's, Bingley confesses

that the Spirit crowd shows up
the Japanese.

"Japanese and Australian crowds are two different sorts," he says.

"Japanese have got these drums and whatever else is going on whereas the Spirit atmosphere if anything is probably better."

When returning to Australia, Bingley remarked that he had no hesitation in joining the Spirit following training sessions with both Perth and Marconi.

"I went with Spirit although it was a new club," he says.

"I knew most of the boys there and I got along very well with Graham Arnold.

"And another factor was the crowds that they are getting."

Bingley now says that another World Cup campaign and success with Spirit is his objective.

After the last campaign against Iran, Bingley believes he only has one more chance for World Cup fame if selected.

"I think the next World Cup campaign will probably be my last," he admits.

"I'm hoping that I will be involved.

"If I don't make it then I think I have already achieved a lot; and I look forward to



Matthew Bingley: the former Marconi star is now a pin-up boy for the fans in the Bob Stand at North Sydney Oval

success with the Spirit."

Now that he has cemented his spot in the Spirit line-up, Bingley will no doubt figure

in Graham Arnold's push to create Australian soccer history, and Bingley believes that is the club's ultimate goal.

"Obviously we are hoping to win the Ericsson Cup," says the new Northern Spirit star. "Once we make the play-

offs there aren't many sides that are going to want to come and play Spirit at North Sydney Oval."

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AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING SOCCER PUBLICATION

Joe Biskic; the man who has already achieved the impossible

by David Arnold

THE WALK with a spring in their step at Somers Street these days.

Those heady days of the mid 90s haven't come back (at least not yet), but there is definitely something in the air besides the 747s taking off from nearby Tullamarine.

The monies from the Viduka transfer will eventually find a way to Melbourne, and will confirm the club's short and medium-term future.

But the major catalyst for the revival of the Melbourne Knights is not money but rather a man.

Josip Biskic has come home.

Some say his ghost has haunted the club during its rocky period, during which he left to play in Malaysia, and a brief, unhappy spell back at the club in which his experience went unrewarded and unappreciated.

But that is in the past now and Biskic of all

seems happiest to be back at the club he once owned.

Two Player of the Year awards, two Championships, five Grand Finals and the captaincy for the better part of a decade sum up the man who some claim is the Melbourne Knights.

For Biskic, the memories are frequent and unforgettable.

Arriving in Australia as a wide eyed young man with countryman Josip Antilovic in 1974, whom Biskic rates as the best-ever he's played with.

Playing alongside the likes of Viduka, Milosevic and Marth as the Knights became the team to beat in the 1990s.

Five Grand Finals in six years from 1991 to 1996, in which Biskic nominates the 1991 Grand Final penalty shootout game against cross-town rivals South Melbourne as his most memorable game.

Biskic won the Man of

the Match for that effort but his other hand received nothing as Souths won the shootout 5-4 after the score was deadlocked at 1-1.

Again missing out, not once, but twice, to Adelaide City cast an air of depression at Somers Street.

In 1995, they finally cracked the big one, spoiling Matic's final game in Adelaide to complete the sweetest revenge possible.

Winning again in Melbourne the following year, with Marth stabbing home and Cervinski netting saw off Marconi's challenge.

But the club, like all great clubs, had its hangover exacerbated by the loss of star players to overseas or other clubs.

The likes of Marth, De Amicis, Cervinski A. and D., Juric, Horvat, Viduka, Tiatto, Spiteri, Marusic, Lapansky and Biskic himself were a hard - almost impossi-

ble - act to follow, made harder by the decision to extend the stadium, a move in which hindsight has not been kind, and a difficult and tumultuous period for the club followed.

The club also jumped onto the coaching carousel, with Ken Worden replaced by Vid Horvat as coach in the off-season, but work permit problems led to the delay of his appointment, forcing Horvat to take up the reins after pre-season had commenced, hardly an ideal position for any coach to turn a team around.

Horvat said as such on his departure, but praised the club's ever continuing youth system and pointed out the difficulties in getting a young team winning consistently.

The stage was set for Biskic to return to the club from Victorian Premier League team Fawkner to rekindle the glories of old.



The Knight's youth system has produced Natevski and Susa, players who automatically recall the old days of glorious,

gifted younger players who came up through the ranks and lent the parochial Knights' supporters further identity with their club and homeland.

Biskic has continued that tradition, inviting younger players into the first team set up once or twice a week and letting them gain experience and

building up their confidence.

Transfer targets from outside will balance and strengthen the squad, with Biskic looking for players in attack, midfield and defence.

It remains to be seen if the Knights can rebuild their team to the extraordinary standards of the mid-90's, but, in Biskic they have a man who can do the nigh impossible.

He's already done it once.

Blatsis back

SOUTH Melbourne's Con Blatsis is back in training after undergoing a spell of treatment at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Coach Ange Postecoglou is expected to add him to the list of squad players for the championships next match.

Kossie Confident

"I've never doubted this team in terms of ability," Brisbane Strikers coach John Kosmina has said of his charges.

"We're playing good football now but we have let in a few easy goals at time which have caused us problems.

"That probably comes down to a lack of this team playing consistently together.

"We've really only had this season together and they will get better as they get used to each other."

Kosmina is in his first season at the Strikers after having spent two years at Newcastle Beakers, his first NSL coaching position.

This season has been a re-building year for the cash strapped Queensland side which flopped badly last season after having taken out the 1997 NSL Grand Final before a record crowd.

Bugsy's View

with Marconi skipper Brad Maloney

MARCONI'S 2-1 away victory over Carlton kept our finals chances alive, and silenced a few critics at the same time.

Had we lost in Melbourne, then it would have been very hard to make the Top Six, but as it stands at the moment, Marconi are still in there fighting for a place.

We won away against Adelaide Sharks a few weeks ago, but undid all that good work by losing at home to Newcastle and Perth in successive weeks.

If ever there is a prize awarded for 'doing it the hard way', then I'm sure we'll get a mention.

Some people may have been surprised that we bounced back to win that game against Carlton given our two successive home defeats, but it certainly was no surprise to us.

Although we lost the previous week 4-3 to Perth Glory, the result did not give an accurate reflection of our performance in that game.

I honestly believe that we probably played as good in that match as we have done in any game this season, and it was desperately disappointing that we took nothing from the match.

We have certainly played a lot worse on occasions and came away with maximum points.

Both our goals against

Carlton came from set pieces, and while we spend a fair bit of time at training working on dead ball situations, surprisingly enough neither of the goals came from a 'rehearsed' move.

Chad Gibson scored an absolute cracker from 30 yards after I laid off a square ball to him and, as in the case of my free kick, it was just one of those situations that seemed 'on' at the time.

My winner too was a case of seizing an opportunity after I saw a gap in Carlton's four man wall.

Late in the game quick thinking by Mike Smith nearly resulted in another goal from a free kick of mine when he jumped over the ball and very nearly fooled Carlton keeper Dean Anastasiadis.

It turned out to be a fantastic reflex save from Dean, but if the ball had went in it really would have been as a result of Smithy's dummy, and I'm sure there would have been a good natured dressing room debate as to who should be credited with the goal.

THE MAINSTREAM media have carried stories recently about possible Marconi signings for next year, as they have also done for other clubs.

Players come and go at every club, and while obviously planning for the future will currently be underway at every club in the Ericsson

Cup, right at this moment the Marconi players have nothing but this season on their minds.

Soccer can be a bit of a revolving door, and it was only the other week that I read an article in the Marconi programme which pointed out that when I made my debut for the Stallions there was only one other current Marconi player in the team, and that was Francis Awaritefe.

That was only three years ago, so nobody in this game can take anything for granted.

I MAY BE jumping the gun a little but Soccer Australia's computer may have hit the jackpot when it paired us with Northern Spirit on the last day of the season.

Already there has been a lot of conjecture about what the crowd could belie if the game should turn out to be a 'mini grand final' with one or both teams needing to win to make the finals.

Marconi Stadium probably has a ground capacity of around 11,500 since our new stand was added and there have been some suggestions that the house full signs may have to be put up.

Let's hope that is the case, but we've got a couple of games to win before then to make that happen.

"You are invited to a special event"

TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH

Sydney United

V

South Melbourne

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SUNDAY APRIL 11 1999

NOTE ALTERED

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Witness the Grand Final
Dress Rehearsal

The thoughts of coach Mike

by Bert van Bedaf

GET an overseas coach for the Socceroos or, if not, put current Young Socceroos coach Les Scheinflug in charge, but appoint a national coach soon because time is running out, says internationally connected coach Michael Urukalo.

A former national league coach of Apia Leichhardt in Sydney and Heidelberg United in Melbourne as well as a former coach of Bulleen in the Victorian Premier League, Urukalo is back in Australia after a season with Nea Salimina in Cyprus.

Urukalo favours an overseas coach to lead the Socceroos -towards the World Cup, held jointly in Japan and South Korea in 2002.

Of the local coaches, he prefers Scheinflug ahead of the younger crop, such as David Mitchell, Eddie Krncevic, Graham Arnold or Frank Farina.

He believes Mitchell, at Sydney United, has shown to be the best performing coach of the returned players and is his third preferred Socceroos

coach.

"Mitchell is doing well. He's taken an average side and has turned it into a top team," Urukalo said.

Urukalo also called on Soccer Australia to lift the standard of the national league by stopping the exodus of talented young players going overseas.

"The quality of football isn't there and with about a hundred Australian players already overseas nothing is done to stop the drain," Urukalo said.

"People want to see a good standard of football."

Urukalo believes Scheinflug is the ideal local coach for the Socceroos job for a number of reasons.

"Scheinflug is more experienced than anybody in Australia," Urukalo said.

scene and (as Young Socceroos coach) he is aware of world football.

"He's seen young world players become international stars and he is well-regarded by FIFA," Urukalo said.

"The young guys aren't ready to take that next step.

"But, if we were to choose a foreign coach, we should have a panel of (younger) coaches working with him as an apprenticeship.

"But we need to appoint a national coach now to give him enough time.

"We're already into 1999 and we still haven't appointed anyone," he said.

His preferred choice is a coach from continental Europe rather than one from Britain, such as Soccer Australia's favourite, Roy Hodgson, and

Cup.

"We need somebody with international experience and who is aware what is happening in Europe, in South America and Asia," says Urukalo.

"Venables got people talking about football in Australia, because of his high profile, but we didn't beat the fourth best team in Asia," Urukalo said.

"Hodgson also has a high profile and a track record (Switzerland, Inter Milan, Blackburn) but I'd rather choose a continental coach as opposed to an English coach.

"For example, Bora Milutinovic is also highly regarded (ex-Costa Rica, Mexico, USA) and why not Claude Leroy (ex-Cameroon) or (former World Cupcoach of France) Jacques Aime?" Urukalo also suggested



"Australia cannot afford to invest \$100,000 in a player's education and then let him go," he said.

"We should not allow them to leave until they're 22 or 23.

"Let them go for a few months of the year on loan, while they continue to play with their (national league) club.

"But it is pointless allowing players to be pinched at an early age and let them sit on the

bench (somewhere in Europe), while they can play here week in week out.

"What was demanded by Leeds, that young players should become British citizens, is criminal.

"How can you hold young players to ransom like that? Soccer Australia must be more ruthless. We are regarded as very naïve.

"But we must become more ruthless in these

situations and in our negotiations."

Well-travelled as an Oceania coaching instructor, Urukalo has been on assignments in Fiji, Tahiti, Solomon Islands and Guam as well as coaching Jahor in Malaysia in the last eight years.

After all the moving, he would not mind staying at home.

"Sure, I wouldn't mind coaching in the national league again," he said.

"Mitchell is doing well with an average side that he turned it into a top team"

"He won a national championship with Marconi.

"He knows the local

Australia's former coach Terry Venables, who failed to take the Socceroos to the 1998 World

young players should be prevented from leaving Australia to play overseas when still in their teens.

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Blues announce free gate for final match

CARLTON has announced free entry for its home match against Perth Glory this Sunday. This season has seen a disappointing slump in attendance for the club which made the Grand Final at its very first attempt.

Only recently the club went through a revamp with the purchase of the franchise from Carlton AFL club by a consortium headed up by sports entrepreneur Peter Jess.

Since then the Melbourne side has moved its home venue to Olympic Park but the crowds have still stayed away as evident by the miserable attendance of under two thousand for the last game against Marconi, a side which normally attracts good following in Melbourne.

Carlton General Manager, Lou Sticca stated: "This promises to be a terrific match.

"Carlton is excited to invite

all sports supporters to come to Olympic Park and experience Australian Soccer at its best, as a guest of the Carlton Soccer Club."

It is an innovative step which deserves success. The match kicks off at 6.30pm.

And the Blues have also announced the re-appointment to their board of Stephen Hargitay and the new appointment of John Lunny, a partner at City law firm, Clayton Utz.

Perth game was test for finals

By Paul Gough

SOUTH Melbourne passed a critical test in its bid to win consecutive NSL championships for the first time, according to coach Ange Postecoglou.

Postecoglou was delighted his side maintained its unbeaten home record this season by coming from 1-0 down to beat fellow title contenders

Perth Glory 2-1 in a thriller at Bob Jane Stadium last Wednesday night.

But the win, thanks to two goals in two minutes late in the game from John Anastasiadis and Vaughan Coveny, was far more precious than just keeping South's proud home record intact.

"It was just so vital to get the points when you are playing another team in with a

chance of a top two finish," Postecoglou said.

"It was a critical game in terms of the whole make-up of our season.

"Perth Glory are going to be one of the challengers in the finals series because they are a good side.

"We would have hated to have lost to them and given them that advantage ahead of the finals."

IT'S THE FINALS COUNTDOWN

PART TWO



Who will win Championship glory?

by Bruce Campbell

ONLY fools bet on football games – or those with a bit more insider information than the stock exchange would

allow.

However, the run in to the final table placings for the 1998/99 National Soccer League season do not look complicated at all.

Currently there are three form teams; Sydney United, South Melbourne and Perth Glory.

Both United and South have already qualified for the Top Six and Perth will make that a formality next week also when, if, as expected, they pick up the three points against Carlton.

But even the three teams currently below them on the table, Northern Spirit, Adelaide City and Sydney Olympic, will have done just enough to keep their places.

That means that Marconi will miss out along with Brisbane Strikers and the bravehearts from Newcastle Breakers.

Should Marconi turn the tables then they may help to make NSL history, as long as they don't edge out Olympic in the process, because there have never been four Sydney clubs in the play-offs since the league was born in 1977.

Last Friday the league celebrated its 22nd birthday – the first ever game was played on Friday April 2 1977 when Canberra City went down 1-3 to West Adelaide Hellas at Manuka Oval.

John Kosmina, now coach of Brisbane, scored the first ever goal in the

7th minute.

Adelaide City and Australia captain Alex Tobin also stepped into the pages of history during the Adelaide derby last Sunday when he made

his 400th NSL appearance.

Tobin is only the third player in history to achieve that milestone and joins Mike O'Shea (406 appearances with St George, Canberra City and Wollongong City)

who only retired a couple of seasons back, and Tobin are one-club men.

WHO PLAYS WHO IN THE

FINAL COUNTDOWN

ADELAIDE SHARKS
Rd 28 v Northern Spirit away
Rd 29 v Brisbane Strikers at home

CANBERRA COSMOS
Rd 28 - bye
Rd 29 v South Melbourne away
Rd 30 v Gippsland Falcons at home

CARLTON SC
Rd 28 v Perth Glory at home
Rd 29 - bye
Rd 30 v Melbourne Knights away

GIPPSLAND FALCONS

Rd 29 v Perth Glory away
Rd 30 v Carlton SC at home

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Rd 28 v Adelaide City away
Rd 29 v Northern Spirit at home
Rd 30 v Brisbane Strikers away

NORTHERN SPIRIT
Rd 28 v Adelaide Sharks at home
Rd 29 v Newcastle Breakers away
Rd 30 v Marconi Fairfield away

PERTH GLORY
Rd 28 v Carlton SC away
Rd 29 v Melbourne Knights at home
Rd 30 v Wollongong Wolves away

SOUTH MELBOURNE
Rd 28 v Sydney United away
Rd 29 v Canberra Cosmos at home
Rd 30 - bye

SYDNEY OLYMPIC
Rd 28 v Melbourne Knights away
Rd 29 v Wollongong Wolves at home
Rd 30 v Adelaide City away

SYDNEY UNITED
Rd 28 v South Melbourne at home
Rd 29 v Gippsland Falcons away
Rd 30 v Adelaide Sharks at home

WOLLONGONG WOLVES
Rd 28 v Marconi Fairfield at home
Rd 29 v Olympic away
Rd 30 v Perth Glory at home

	likely points	likely final place
Adelaide Sharks	+1= 28	
Adelaide City	+4= 43	
Brisbane Strikers	+7= 42	
Canberra Cosmos	+3= 17	
Carlton	+1= 33	
Gippsland Falcons	+0= 22	
Marconi Fairfield	+5= 44	6th
Melbourne Knights	+1= 24	
Newcastle Breakers *	+3= 39	
Northern Spirit	+5= 47	5th
Perth Glory	+9= 54	4th
South Melbourne	+4= 58	1st
Sydney Olympic	+7= 49	3rd
Sydney United	+9= 57	2nd
Wollongong Wolves*	+1= 31	

NOTE: * assuming that Newcastle Breakers win the re-scheduled Round 27 match versus Wollongong City Wolves.

THE TOP SIX?

South Melbourne
Sydney United
Sydney Olympic
Perth Glory
Northern Spirit
Marconi Fairfield

and Sergio Melta (445 appearances with Adelaide City) in the very



Sergio Melta: most games ever exclusive 400 club. Incredibly both Melta,

Rd 30 v Sydney United away

ADELAIDE CITY
Rd 28 v Newcastle Breakers at home
Rd 29 v Marconi Fairfield away
Rd 30 v Sydney Olympic at home

BRISBANE STRIKERS
Rd 28 v Gippsland Falcons at home
Rd 29 v Adelaide Sharks away
Rd 30 v Newcastle Breakers at home

Rd 28 v Brisbane Strikers away
Rd 29 v Sydney United at home
Rd 30 v Canberra Cosmos away

MARCONI FAIRFIELD
Rd 28 v Wollongong Wolves away
Rd 29 v Adelaide City at home
Rd 30 v Northern Spirit at home

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
Rd 28 v Sydney Olympic at home

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NORTHERN UNITED

PROFILE OF AN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER CLUB

Linking past for a better future

NORTHERN United are a new club but one which lays claim to the rich heritage of Australian soccer history.

They were formed in 1995 from the amalgamation of Corrimal Rangers and Russell Vale. Vale were themselves an offshoot of Corrimal, once Australia's most powerful club.

In the 1950s crowds of five to ten thousand packed the Rangers Memorial Park to see a star-studded line up led by Bobby Bignall, an icon of Australian football.

But times change and those that don't go with change often get left behind. The upsurge in the strength of other clubs in the newer areas of southern Illawarra led to what was, and still is, a contentious amalgamation.

Since their birth, or maybe it should be re-

birth, United have consistently challenged for honours in Illawarra Soccer.

In 1995 their youth side won the league and Grand Final double.

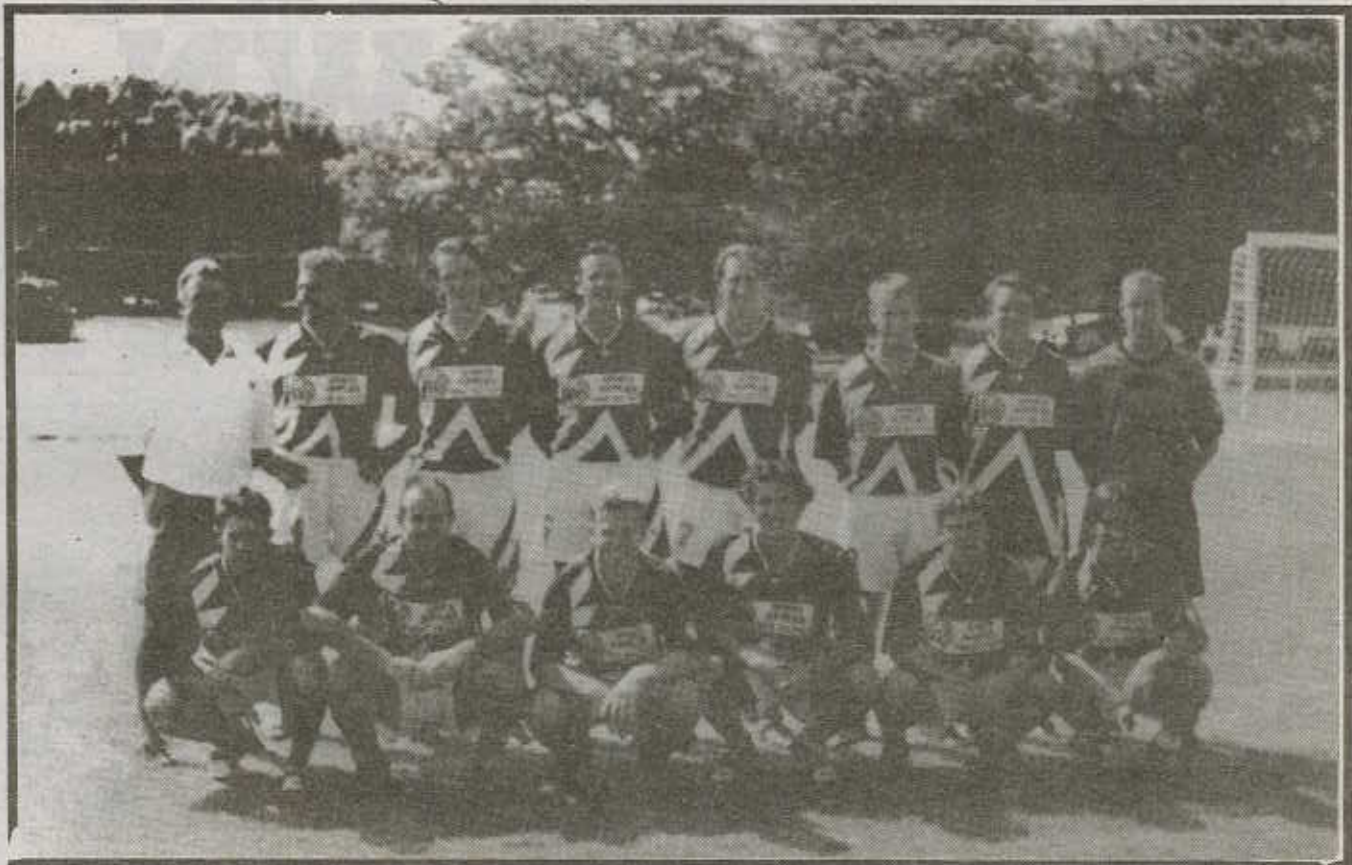
That side was also runners-up in the Cass Cup while the reserves made the Top Four.

1996 saw the Youth side again win the League and Grand Final double and again runners-up in the Cass Cup.

The first grade side took out the Corrimal Cup the following season with the youth winners of the Cass Cup.

Even last season the youth side won the league although they were beaten on Grand Final day and this season the senior side started in good fashion by winning the Coniston Whitehall Cup.

A shock opening round win against Port Kembla in the league might suggest that they will make the Top 4 this season



BACK ROW (left to right): Phil Carr, Stuart Glass, Wade Peterson, Rod Hill, Paul Hughes, Michael Gardiner, Matthew Smart, Adrian Thompson,

FRONT ROW: Darren Gardiner, David Such, Peter O'Brien, Matthew Bailey, Jamie Closs, Michael Ugarenko

after narrowly missing out last time.

But probably the big-

gest single factor which will determine the eventual success of the club is

the fine string of youth talent coming through its ranks.

Northern United maintains a link to the past with its affiliation with

Corrimal Rangers junior soccer club which even plays next door.

Phil Carr's no-nonsense football

by Bruce Campbell

PHIL CARR isn't the kind of man who minces his words.

Maybe that is why his team plays a no-nonsense brand of football.

And despite his claim that his side possesses no super stars it is a side which works hard for each other and does the simple things they way they should be done - simply.

"When I arrived at this club three seasons ago," he says, "I had to change a few things."

"There were a lot of

players being paid under the table and I stopped that - but we lost seven players at the end of that season.

"The club also seemed to be content to just win youth trophies and I changed that too."

"We produce a lot of good kids at this club and this season we have 22 players in our team lists who are still eligible to play youth football."

"They tell me that I have a reputation as someone who will give kids a chance and that seems to be one reason why they come here."

Another is mateship

and this season United has signed a few university students simply because their mates were already at the club.

Carr has taken over the day to day running of the team squads and is confident that they are on a sound financial footing.

"We don't have a fortune here but what we do have we look after the players with," he says.

"It is a sound club and what we pay what is on offer. This season we are sponsored by the Corrimal Bowling Club and things look good."

Despite the lack of wealth at United coach Phil Carr still has ambition.

"Just because we haven't a team laced with superstars doesn't mean we can't be competitive," he says. "We have a good side and I have the 'big v' covered; goalkeeper,



sweeper and two centre backs.

"Adrian Thompson is a better keeper than Daniel Beltrame (currently playing for Wollongong in the NSL) and then we have Rod Hill and Stuart Glass who have both played for Illawarra as centre halves."

"We are aiming for a

Top 4 spot this season, that is every player's ambition."

"I was as disappointed as anyone that we just missed out last year but we can do better this time. We have always had good juniors at Northern United and this time they are all one year older."

1999 Senior Players Roster

Adrian Thompson
Gareth Brownlee
Rodney Hill
Stuart Glass
Gavin O'Brien
Jason Wenig
Timothy Biro
David Such
Andrew Hancox
Jamie Closs
John Chapman
Matthew Bailey
Paul Hughes
Peter Vaughan
Michael Brown
James Dummett
Robert Chipperfield
Peter O'Neill
Michael Gardiner
Darren Gardiner
David Forshaw
Wade Peterson
Shay Connor
Matthew Smart
Neil Ryan
Gareth Gardner
Michael Zanella
Drew Gardner
Michael Ugarenko
Jackson Daniels
Joel Peterson
Troy Wiseman
Jordan Tweddle
Matthew O'Kane
Brad Chilby
Dean Chapman
Marcel van Tol
Ryan Banks
Jason Papac
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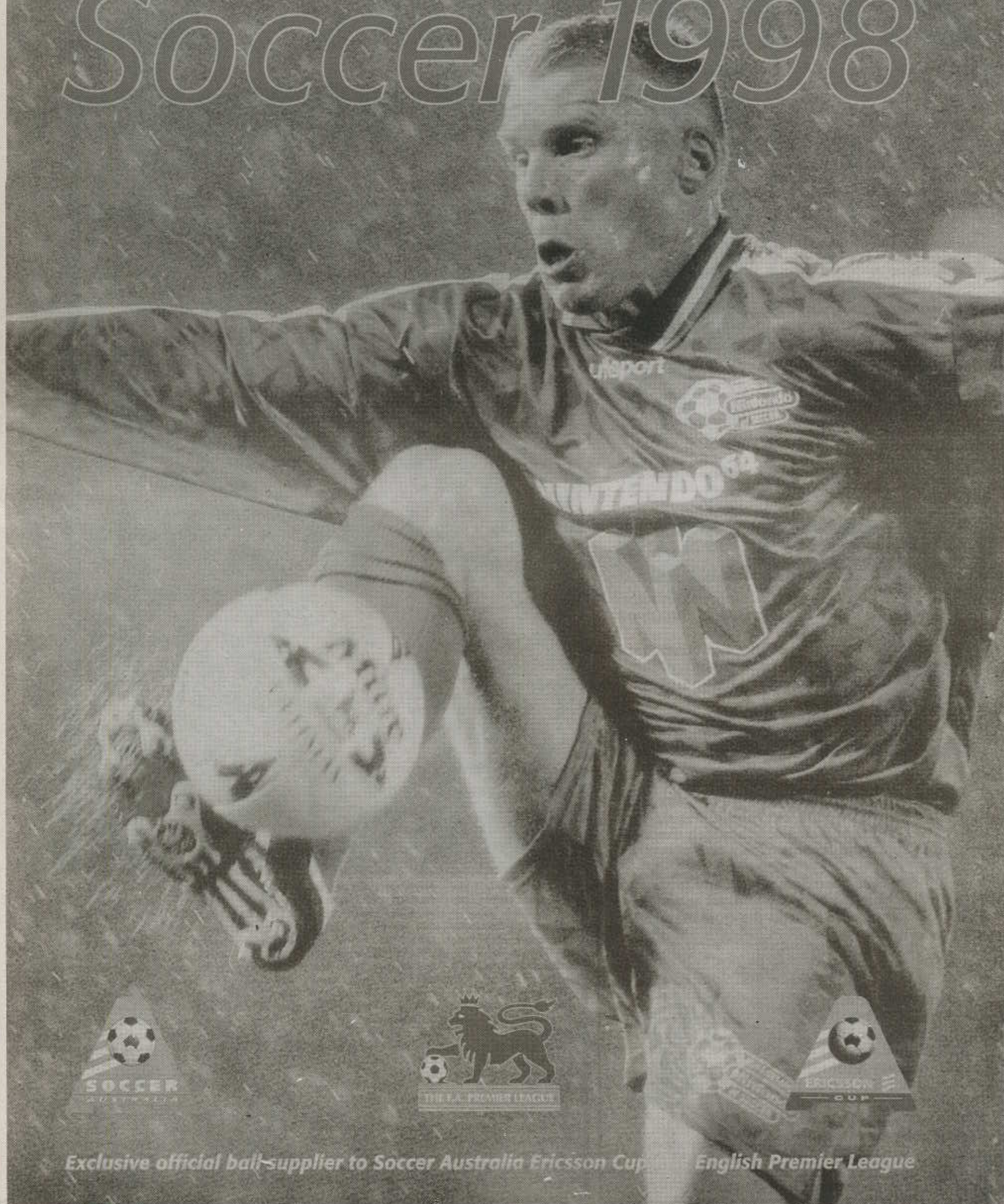
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Bobby Catlin

Not ready to call it quits



by Stuart Jones

IF THERE is one player who has been written off as too old more than most it is goalkeeper Bobby Catlin.

Yet the Cat continues to play exceptionally week after week for his current club, Newcastle.

Overseas goalkeepers are more often than not the other side of 30 when they come to the best yet we have this great desire in Australia to bomb out players who are past that age.

These are the players we should be respecting most, and asking to hand on the tips they have learnt along the way.

Perhaps it is more a case of will the younger players listen to them?

Bob Catlin's first club was Manly in 1986 before he appeared for Apia in 1984-85, making 22 NSL appearances after his debut against Heidelberg.

He joined Marconi in February 1987 and debuted for them in the following month against Brunswick Juventus.

Bobby Catlin went on to enjoy much success with the Stallions before a two year stay overseas with Notts County.

He returned to Marconi for three seasons before joining Sydney Olympic last season, and the Newcastle Breakers this.

At Newcastle he is playing in a team that have more youngsters and less experience, so is it much different from playing with a team of old heads?

"It is not that different," he says.

"A team is a team whatever it's mix.

"As a goalkeeper I am always screaming at my defence so that it stays organised.

"If I do my job well then I am happy, and if I do that it espouses confidence in the team as a whole."

So just what are the ingredients necessary to be a successful goalkeeper?

"Firstly it always helps if you can catch a ball," he says.

"Some keepers are quiet but I have always been vocal and that helps your own confidence.

"The hardest thing about being a goalkeeper is getting to those crosses.

"It is a decision made



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in a split second, if you try to anticipate too early then you will be done.

"There is no easy learning method, and even now if the cross is brilliant then there is not a lot I can do about it.

"The more you play the easier it is to read the path of a cross and jump for it.

"You just need to learn what the right option is and younger goalkeepers are still learning that.

"That is why some let them go a bit more often, because they are still learning.

"In terms of one-on-ones with attacking players I like to get to the

player as quickly as I can and I try to get them towards the corner, therefore making the angles harder.

"In the end though the best advice is the hardest, take each ball as it comes.

"Around the league there are some quality young keepers.

"On the basis of consistency though I would have to say Michael Petkovic is the best keeper in Australia.

"Saying that I think it was a crime that Michael Gibson was shunted off so early.

"Now he is back and after a couple of weeks

settling in he has shown just how good he is.

"It goes to show that those who put a use-by date on goalkeepers can make a big mistake.

"I believe Mark Bosnich will be a better keeper when he is 30+ than he is even today.

"When I left Marconi even the first time I was kind of regarded as too old.

"It is a shame that people can't think beyond under 30s."

Catlin's first time at Marconi was filled with success and many of the players in his side come to mind when asked who the best players he has

seen in Australia.

"I played in a team full of stars, the likes of Okon, Farina, Gray, McCulloch as well as players around the NSL like Aurelio Vidmar, Trimboli and Slater," says Catlin.

"I find it hard to compare the past with today but there were some great teams around then like South Melbourne and Marconi.

"However, today the general level of play is a lot better than back then.

"In those days there were always some easy games but these days you don't get them."

Bob Catlin did play

WORLD YOUTH CUP - NIGERIA '99

Cup opens with Nigerian draw

By Brian Homewood
in Lagos

UNFANCIED Costa Rica snatched a late equaliser to force a 1-1 draw and deflate Nigeria's celebrations in the opening game of the World Youth championship on Saturday.

The Nigerian crowd were in buoyant mood as the tournament, taken away from them four years ago because of health and security fears, finally began.

The 45,000 spectators expected to watch the hosts win the opening game, a result that appeared to be on the cards when Julius Aghahowa fired them ahead in the 20th minute.

But the Central Americans, regarded by local fans as little more than sparring partners, hit back with a penalty converted by captain Allan Melendez seven minutes from the end of the group A game.

Both sides picked up yellow cards, with one for Costa Rican captain Allan Melendez, followed by another for Nigerian goalkeeper Sam Okoye after a wild challenge outside the area.

Okoye then made a second bad foul, chopping down an oncoming Costa Rican in the area from time and was lucky not to have been sent off by Belorussian referee Sergei Shmolik.

Melendez stepped up to the spot and put away the penalty awarded for the foul, sinking the Nigerians' hopes of a first win and the team was booed by the home crowd for the last few minutes on the pitch.

Nigeria had dominated the first half against nervous opponents and could have gone in at halftime with more than one goal to their credit.

Aghahowa's goal capped a fine first-half performance by the

17-year-old, who plays for local club Bendel Insurance.

But, like his team, Aghahowa lost his way in the second half.

Costa Rica made two substitutions, grew in confidence, created several chances and were finally rewarded when Esteban Santana was tripped by goalkeeper Sam Okoye.

"They are stronger than us but we fought a lot in the second half," said Costa Rica coach Carlos Watson.

Nigerian coach Tunde Disu said: "We threw our chances away because we lacked co-ordination in the new attack."

The game was played on a near-perfect pitch, which at least gave Nigeria an early win over those who believed they could not provide adequate facilities.

Watson also said his squad were happy with their treatment since they had arrived.



Costa Rica's Allan Melendez stops Nigeria's Hashimu Garba in the opening match of the World Youth Cup in Lagos on Saturday.
PHOTO: George Esiri

Dazzling Culina sets up Aussies

By Paul Millar

AUSTRALIA has crushed Saudi Arabia 3-1 to win its opening group match at the World Youth Soccer Championship in stifling conditions in Nigeria.

The Young Socceroos were just too slick and powerful for the Saudis at the Liberty Stadium in Ibadan.

Jason Culina opened the scoring after 30 minutes, John Maisano made it 2-0 with 20 minutes to play while the Saudis turned a Mark Bresciano cross into their own net before claiming a late consolation goal.

Culina was brilliant for the Australians, who looked composed going forward but at times allowed Saudi Arabia to drift into the game.

The Young Socceroos found plenty of space on the flanks and Mile Sterjovski fired a pin-point cross to the heart of the Saudi defence which Culina met perfectly drilling home with a left foot drive.

Saudi Arabia almost levelled minutes later when Bandar Al Mutairi hit a 35m free-kick which

Anthony Breaden did well to tip onto the crossbar.

Saudi Arabia battled its way back into the game at the start of the second half in stamina sapping heat, but the Australians refused to give ground and held firm.

With the Arabians either too tired to backtrack or caught badly out of position the Young Socceroos hit them on the counter.

Culina broke free on the wing curled the ball to Maisano, who was unmarked and stroked the ball home making it 2-0.

By then the sting had gone from the Saudi's game and the result was only going one way.

Bresciano then crossed hard and low and Omar Al Garni turned the ball into his own net and the Young Socceroos had a 3-0 lead.

With regulation time over Mohamad Dabo headed powerfully into the bottom corner to make the score respectable but it was too little too late.

Australia now faces Mexico in its next group game on Thursday and Ireland on Sunday.

The Young Socceroos are ranked seventh in the world and their best performance in this series was fourth in 1991 and 1993.

Captain Simon Colosimo said Australia were fully focussed on the task at hand, with the conditions rating a distant second.

"It was pretty hot in the first half and part of the second, but once we got going, from my own point of view, the weather was the last thing on my mind," he said.

"The only thing on my mind was winning the game. We were disappointed that we conceded the goal at the end because everyone wanted to keep a clean sheet, but we can only work on that."

"Overall, I think we played well, although in the first half hour the nerves were there, but we all seemed to settle after the first goal."

"I think the midfield worked exceptionally hard and controlled the game, particularly in the second half, but while the win's a great start, this is only the first game of the campaign, and we can improve from here."

Goals and controversy

By Brian Homewood

STRIKER Enrico Kern scored a hat-trick as Germany demolished Paraguay 4-0 in the world youth championship on Sunday while Argentina began the defence of their crown with an unremarkable 1-0 win over Kazakhstan.

A floodlight failure interrupted the Mexico-Ireland game in Ibadan, the first organisational glitch of the tournament, and an official blamed sabotage.

Germany, playing before a sparse crowd at the National Stadium in Lagos, were run ragged in the first half and Dominguez caused them endless problems with his twisting runs and trickery on the ball.

Paraguay missed a succession of chances and were punished when Kern scored a hat-trick between the 44th and 69th minutes.

The best German effort, however, came from Patrick Falk, who spotted Paraguay goalkeeper Christian Florentin off his line and chipped the ball over him from 40 metres in the 89th minute.

Kern, a 20-year-old who plays for Borussia

Berlin, was also guilty of a scything tackle from behind on Dominguez, who lashed out with his elbow and was sent off. Kern's tackle went unpunished.

Germany top the group, ahead of Nigeria and Costa Rica who drew 1-1 in Saturday's tournament opener.

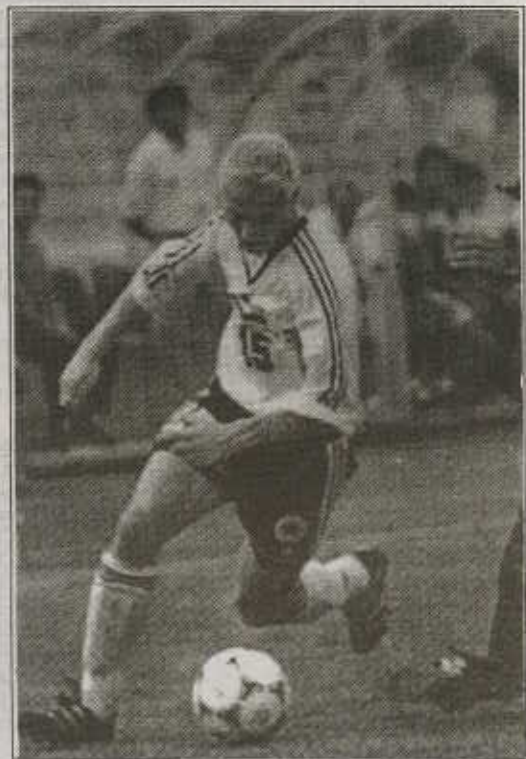
Argentina, winners of the last two world youth championships, dominated their central Asian opponents in group B but their only goal came through captain Esteban Camiasso a minute before halftime.

Kazakhstan goalkeeper David Loriya kept the score down with some excellent saves.

"We were nervous because it was our first match," said Argentine coach Jose Peckerman. Earlier, Ghana and Croatia opened a double bill in Ibadan by drawing 1-1 in the same group.

Ghana dominated but Malaga striker Owusu Afriyie was in miserable form, missing a string of good chances.

The Africans fell behind to a Zvonimir Deranja before Peter Ofori-Quaye equalised after an hour with a goal that rivalled Falk's in quality.



Germany's Timm Christian outwits Paraguay's captain Da Silva Paulo in their World Youth Cup soccer group match.
Photo by George Esiri

Group C began with Australia's win over Saudi Arabia and a 1-0 win for Mexico over Ireland in another double bill in Ibadan.

A 12 minute floodlight failure delayed play in the following match, in which Mexico beat Ireland 1-0 with a spectacular

free kick scored by Rafael Marquez.

It was a blow for Nigerian organisers, who are trying to prove to detractors that the country can stage the tournament without problems.

Local official Gbenga Giwa said he thought it was sabotage.

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARGENTINA

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Franco COSTANZO	05-09-80	River Plate ARG
2 DF	Carlos Sebastian ROLDAN	12-09-79	Lanus ARG
3 DF	Gabriel Alejandro MILITO	07-09-80	Independiente ARG
4 DF	Juan Ramon FERNANDEZ	05-03-80	Estudiantes ARG
5 MF	Esteban Matias CAMBIASSO	18-08-80	Independiente ARG
6 DF	Fernando Javier CROSA	28-02-79	Newell ARG
7 FW	Luciano Martin GALLETTI	09-04-80	Estudiantes ARG
8 MF	Aldo Pedro DUSCHER	22-03-79	Sporting Lis POR
9 FW	Sixto Raimundo PERALTA	16-04-79	Huracan ARG
10 FW	Daniel Gaston MONTENEGRO	28-03-79	Huracan ARG
11 DF	German Ezequiel RIVAROLA	18-04-79	Rosario Cent ARG
12 GK	Diego Sebastian SAJA	05-06-79	San Cosmos ARG
13 MF	Javier Alejandro VILLARREAL	01-03-79	Talleres ARG
14 DF	Cristian Emilio GRABINSKI	12-01-79	Newell OB ARG
15 MF	Luis ZUBELDIA	13-01-81	Lanus ARG
16 FW	Ernesto Antonio FARIAS	29-05-80	Estudiantes ARG
17 FW	Sebastian FLORES	11-04-79	Rosario Cent ARG
18 FW	Federico INSUA	03-01-80	Argentina Jun ARG
Coach:	Jose PEKERMANN (ARG)		

AUSTRALIA

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Anthony BREADEN	07-03-79	Adelaide City AUS
2 DF	Brett EMERTON	22-02-79	Syd Olympic AUS
3 DF	Lindsay WILSON	04-05-79	Can Cosmos AUS
4 DF	Simon COLOSIMO	08-01-79	Carlton AUS
5 DF	Eddy BOSNAR	29-04-80	Northern Spirit AUS
6 DF	Paul WEARNE	14-03-80	Northern Spirit AUS
7 MF	Jason CULINA	05-08-80	Syd Olympic AUS
8 MF	Vincenzo GRELLA	05-10-79	Empoli ITA
9 MF	Mark BRESCIANO	11-02-80	Carlton AUS
10 FW	John MAISANO	06-01-79	Westerlo BEL
11 FW	Mile STERJOVSKI	25-07-79	Sydney Utd. AUS
12 MF	David TERMINELLO	30-08-80	Adelaide City AUS
13 DF	Michael CUNICO	17-03-79	Northern Spirit AUS
14 FW	Daniele INVINCIBILE	31-03-79	Marconi AUS
15 MF	Christian CARE	21-03-79	Marconi AUS
16 FW	Joel GRIFFITHS	21-08-79	Sydney Utd. AUS
17 DF	Mark BYRNES	08-02-82	NSWIS AUS
18 GK	Michael TURNBULL	24-03-81	AIS AUS
Coach:	Les SCHEINFLUG		

BRAZIL

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Julio CÉSAR	03-09-79	Flamengo BRA
2 DF	Jose ÍNDIO	03-04-79	Corinthians BRA
3 DF	JUAN	01-02-79	Flamengo BRA
4 DF	Fabio BILICA	04-01-79	Venezia ITA
5 MF	Rodrigo FERRUGEM	06-10-80	Palmeiras BRA
6 DF	Fabio AURÉLIO	24-09-79	Sao Paulo BRA
7 FW	RONALDO	21-03-80	Gremio BRA
8 MF	ALEXANDRE	19-02-79	Sao Paulo BRA
9 FW	Joao FERNANDO BAIANO	18-03-79	Corinthians BRA
10 MF	EDU	10-01-79	Sao Paulo BRA
11 MF	MATUZALÉM	10-06-80	Vitoria BRA
12 GK	FÁBIO	30-09-80	Uniao Band BRA
13 DF	Alessandro MANCINI	01-08-80	Atletico Min BRA
14 DF	Milton ROGÉRIO	24-02-79	Parana BRA
15 MF	THIAGO	04-04-79	Palmeiras BRA
16 FW	Rodrigo GRAL	21-02-79	Juventude BRA
17 FW	Geovanni GEOVANNI	11-01-80	Cruzeiro BRA
18 DF	FERNANDO	25-02-80	Flamengo BRA
Coach:	DA SILVA COSTA Joao Carlos (BRA)		

CAMEROON

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Idris Carlos KAMENI	18-02-84	Le Havre FRA
2 FW	Thierry MODO ABOUNA	20-05-81	Canonide CMR
3 DF	Innocent HAMGA	08-05-81	Cotonsport CMR
4 DF	Clement LEBE	09-01-79	Racing CMR
5 DF	Benoit Fils MOUSSONGUI	27-06-80	Racing CMR
6 MF	Hugues NZINKEU	22-02-80	FOVU CMR
7 MF	Modeste MBAMI	09-10-82	Dynamo CMR
8 FW	Samuel Alain INOGUE	18-12-80	Racing CMR
9 FW	Adissa Francis KIOYO	18-09-79	Union CMR
10 FW	Francois DIKOUME	17-01-79	FOVU CMR
11 FW	Gaspard KOMOL	28-04-80	Dynamo CMR
12 FW	Mohamadou IDRISOU	tba	Cotonsport CMR
13 DF	Jean-Pierre TCHEUTCHOUA	12-12-80	Dynamo CMR
14 FW	Daniel NGOM	19-05-80	Cotonsport CMR
15 DF	Salifou IBRAHIMA	14-10-80	Cotonsport CMR
16 GK	Gilbert NDJAMA	09-08-79	Red Star FRA
17 MF	Daniel BIKOI	12-12-82	Sable CMR
18 MF	William TABI	13-11-81	Sable CMR
Coach:	GWEHA Ikouam (CMR)		

COSTA RICA

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Jairo Manuel VILLEGAS	16-02-80	Liberia CRC
2 DF	Mauricio Alonso GARITA	05-05-79	Heredia CRC
3 MF	Pablo Cesar RODRÍGUEZ	10-12-79	Guanacaste CRC
4 DF	Allan Gerardo MELÉNDEZ	19-07-80	Saprissa CRC
5 DF	Alexander CASTRO	14-02-79	Alajuela CRC
6 DF	Gilberto MARTÍNEZ	01-10-79	Saprissa CRC
7 MF	Jose Mauricio ALPÍZAR	30-01-79	Ramonense CRC
8 FW	Esteban Jesus SANTANA	06-04-80	Saprissa CRC
9 MF	Jose Humberto UGARTE	11-02-80	Liberia CRC
10 MF	Minor Enrique DÍAZ	26-12-80	Santa Barb CRC
11 MF	Dany Alberto FONSECA	07-11-79	Cartago CRC
12 DF	Robert Alberto ARIAS	18-03-80	Heredia CRC
13 DF	Jose Alberto BRENES	18-03-79	Cartago CRC
14 MF	Mario Esteban VÍQUEZ	04-05-79	Alajuela CRC
15 DF	Juan Bautista ESQUIVEL	12-08-80	Saprissa CRC
16 FW	Winston Antonio PARKS	12-10-81	Libre CRC
17 MF	Luis Antonio VENEGAS	16-08-80	Plaza Acosta CRC
18 GK	Greivin Gerardo CRUZ	13-01-79	Perez Zel CRC
Coach:	WATSON SIMES Carlos (CRC)		

CROATIA

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Stipe PLETIKOSA	08-01-79	Hajduk HRV
2 DF	Darko MILADIN	01-04-79	Hajduk HRV
3 DF	Kristijan POLOVANEC	10-10-79	HRV
4 DF	Goran SABLIC	04-08-79	Hajduk HRV
5 DF	Andre MIJATOVIC	03-12-79	Rijeka HRV
6 MF	Anthony SERIC	15-01-79	Hajduk HRV
7 FW	Mihail MIKIC	06-01-80	Zagreb HRV
8 MF	Jurica VRANJES	31-01-80	Osijek HRV
9 FW	Igor BUDAN	22-04-80	Rijeka HRV
10 MF	Josip BALATINAC	07-03-79	Osijek HRV
11 FW	Zvonimir DERANJA 2	02-09-79	Hajduk HRV
12 GK	Hrvoje SUNARA	04-05-79	Hajduk HRV
13 DF	Silvester SABOLCKI	12-11-79	Varteks HRV
14 MF	Srdan ANDRIC	05-01-80	Hajduk HRV
15 MF	Ivica BANOVIC	02-08-80	Zagreb HRV
16 FW	Sasa BJELANOVIC	11-06-79	Zadark HRV
17 DF	Hrvoje VUKOVIC	25-07-79	Hajduk HRV
18 FW	Kruno LOVREK	11-09-79	Zagreb HRV
Coach:	NOVOSELAC Martin (HRV)		

ENGLAND

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Stuart TAYLOR	28-11-80	Arsenal ENG
2 DF	Lee ROCHE	28-10-80	Man Utd. ENG
3 DF	Ashley COLE	20-12-80	Arsenal ENG
4 DF	Stephen WRIGHT	08-02-80	Liverpool ENG
5 DF	Stephen HASLAM	06-09-79	Sheff Wed ENG
6 DF	Neil MURPHY	19-05-80	Liverpool ENG
7 FW	Luke CHADWICK	18-11-80	Man Utd. ENG
8 FW	Andrew JOHNSON	10-02-81	B'mham ENG
9 FW	Craig DUDLEY	12-09-79	Notts Co ENG
10 FW	John PIERCY	18-09-79	Tottenham ENG
11 FW	Matthew ETHERINGTON	14-08-81	Peterboro ENG
12 DF	Adam A. CHAMBERS	20-11-80	W Brom ENG
13 GK	Paul RACHUBKA	21-05-81	Man Utd. ENG
14 DF	James J. CHAMBERS	20-11-80	WBA ENG
15 MF	Kevin NICHOLLS	02-01-79	Charlton ENG
16 MF	Richard COOPER	27-09-79	Forest ENG
17 MF	Paolo VERNAZZA	01-11-79	Arsenal ENG
18 MF	Adam OLIVER	25-10-80	WBA ENG
Coach:	RAMSEY Chris (ENG)		

GERMANY

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Timo HILDEBRAND	05-04-79	Stuttgart GER
2 DF	Alexander ROSEN	10-04-79	Frankfurt GER
3 DF	Thorsten SCHRAMM	09-02-79	Duisburg GER
4 DF	Marcel RAPP	16-04-79	Karlsruher GER
5 DF	Thomas LECHNER	09-01-79	K'slautern GER
6 DF	Michael STUCKMANN	01-09-79	W'scheid GER
7 MF	Andreas VOSS	27-02-79	Leverkusen GER
8 MF	Michael ROTHHOLZ	25-08-79	Dortmund GER
9 MF	Michael MUTZEL	27-09-79	Frankfurt GER
10 MF	Patrick FALK	08-02-80	Leverkusen GER
11 MF	Tobias SCHÄPER	24-10-79	Dortmund GER
12 GK	Stefan WESSELS	28-02-79	Bay Munich GER
13 MF	Sebastian KAUL	17-10-79	Uerdingen GER
14 MF	Martin FORKEL	22-07-79	Fuerth GER
15 FW	Christian TIMM	27-02-79	Dortmund GER
16 FW	Enrico KERN	12-03-79	B Berlin GER
17 FW	Mahmut YILMAZ	06-10-79	Hamburger SV GER
18 FW	Andreas GENSLER	13-08-79	Leverkusen GER
Coach:	STOBER Bernd (GER)		

GHANA

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Sam ADJEI	01-09-80	Hearts of Oak GHA
2 DF	Ahmed ABDUL	05-02-80	Kongsvinger NOR
3 FW	Baffour GYAN	02-07-80	Kalamata GRE
4 DF	Kofi AMOAKO	26-03-79	Goldfields GHA
5 DF	Rahman ISSAH	04-11-80	Udinese ITA
6 MF	Abdul RAZAK	02-10-80	Dwarfs GHA
7 FW	Mohammed ABDULAI	04-12-80	Dortmund GER
8 DF	Mohammed HAMZA	05-11-80	R.T.U. GHA
9 MF	Teophilus AMUZU	22-11-80	Standard Liege BEL
10 MF	Stephen APPIAH	24-12-80	Udinese ITA
11 MF	Aziz ANSAH	07-10-80	Harelbeke BEL
12 MF	Kingston LARYEA	07-11-80	Olympics GHA
13 FW	Johnson EKU	17-09-80	Electricity GHA
14 FW	Issah MOHAMMED	20-12-80	Goldfields GHA
15 DF	George BLAY	07-08-80	Standard Liege BEL
16 GK	Osei BOATENG	19-05-81	Olympics GHA
17 FW	Peter OFORI-QUAYE	21-03-80	Olympiakos GRE
18 FW	Owusu AFRIYIE	01-09-80	Malaga ESP
Coach:	DOSSENA Giuseppe (ITA)		

HONDURAS

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Servando Javier PEREZ	16-01-79	Independiente HND
2 MF	Eddy Magdiel CONTRERAS	16-09-79	Olimpia HND
3 DF	Gerson Benjamin VASQUEZ	20-03-79	Melgar HND
4 DF	Junior Gustavo IZAGUIRRE	12-08-79	Motagua HND
5 DF	Eric Cecilio VALLECILLO	29-01-80	Real Espana HND
6 DF	Carlos Rene LINO	16-04-79	Victoria HND
7 DF	Juan Carlos RAUDALES	15-07-79	Motagua HND
8 FW	Reynaldo Antonio TILGUATH	04-08-79	Olimpia HND
9 FW	Oscar David D. SUAZO	05-11-79	Olimpia HND
10 FW	Julio Cesar LEON	13-09-79	Platense HND
11 FW	Hector Enrique GUTIERREZ	08-02-80	Real Espana HND
12 MF	Maynor Rene M. SUAZO	10-08-79	Marathon HND
13 FW	Elmer Adelmo MARIN	14-10-79	Olimpia HND
14 MF	Edgar Antonio ALVAREZ	09-01-80	Platense HND
15 DF	Milton Jose PALACIOS	25-12-80	Libre HND
16 DF	Oscar Arnulfo FORTIN	25-06-80	Motagua HND
17 MF	Carlos Alberto OLIVA	28-07-79	Real Espana HND
18 GK	Luis Enrique CLARK	11-09-80	Platense HND
Coach:	DE LA PAZ HERRERA Jose (PAR)		

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Alex O'REILLY	05-09-79	West Ham ENG
2 DF	Thomas HEARY	14-02-79	Huddersfield ENG
3 DF	Keith DOYLE	20-07-79	St. Patrick's IRL
4 DF	Jason GAVIN	14-03-80	Middlesbro ENG
5 DF	Gary DOHERTY	09-03-80	Luton Town ENG
6 MF	Barry QUINN	09-05-79	Coventry City ENG
7 MF	Stephen MC PHAIL	09-12-79	Leeds Utd. ENG
8 MF	Gerard CROSSLEY	05-02-80	Celtic SCO
9 FW	Liam GEORGE	02-02-79	Luton Town ENG
10 FW	Robert KEANE	08-07-80	Wolves ENG
11 FW	Damien DUFF	02-03-79	Blackburn ENG
12 FW	Richard BAKER	17-04-80	Shelbourne IRL
13 MF	Colin HEALY	14-03-80	Celtic SCO
14 FW	Richard SADLIER	14-01-79	Milwall ENG
15 FW	Ryan CASEY	03-01-79	Swansea City WAL
16 GK	Dean DELANEY	15-09-80	Everton ENG
17 DF	Paul DONNELLY	31-08-79	Leeds Utd. ENG
18 DF	Barry FERGUSON	07-09-79	Coventry City ENG
Coach:	KERR Brian (IRL)		

JAPAN

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club Country
1 GK	Tatsuya ENOMOTO	16-03-79	Marinos JPN
2 DF	Kazuki TESHIMA	07-06-79	Kyoto JPN
3 DF	Shigeki TSUJIMOTO	23-06-79	Kyoto JPN
4 DF	Tatsuya ISHIKAWA	25-12-79	Tsukuba Uni JPN
5 DF	Akira KAJI	13-01-80	Cerezo Osaka JPN
6 MF	Junichi INAMOTO	18-09-79	Gamba Osaka JPN
7 MF	Tomoyuki SAKAI	29-06-79	JEF Utd JPN
8 MF	Mitsuo OGASAWARA	05-04-79	Kashima JPN
9 FW	Naohiro TAKAHARA	04-06-79	Jubilo Iwata JPN
10 MF	Masashi MOTOYAMA	20-06-79	Kashima JPN
11 MF	Yasuhito ENDO	28-01-80	Kyoto JPN
12 MF	Koji NAKATA	09-07-79	Kashima JPN
13 MF	Shinji ONO	27-09-79	Urawa Reds JPN
14 FW	Yuichiro NAGAI	14-02-79	Karlsruher SC GER
15 FW	Yasunori TAKADA	22-02-79	Bellmare JPN
16 FW	Ryuji BANDO	02-08-79	Gamba Osaka JPN
17 DF	Hideyuki UJIE	23-02-79	Omiya Aridja JPN
18 GK	Yula MINAMI	30-09-79	Reysol JPN
Coach:	TROUSSIER Philippe (FRA)		



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KAZAKHSTAN

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	David LORIYA	31-10-81	Astana-Astana	KAZ
2 DF	Denis PROSKURIN	03-04-79	Elimaj-Semej	KAZ
3 DF	Igor SOLOSHENKO	22-05-79	Karaganda	KAZ
4 DF	Alexandr KUCHMA	09-12-80	Taraz-Taraz	KAZ
5 MF	Sergey GORBANEV	27-11-79	Taraz-Taraz	KAZ
6 MF	Ali ALIYEV	27-10-80	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
7 MF	Maxim SAMCHENKO	05-05-79	Vostok	KAZ
8 MF	Andrey ISSAYEV	03-05-80	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
9 MF	Andrey TRAVIN	27-04-79	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
10 FW	Aikhan AKKAZYNOV	23-10-79	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
11 FW	Yevgeniy TARASSOV	25-03-79	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
12 FW	Yerlan URAZAYEV	04-04-79	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
13 DF	Aidar KUMISBEKOV	09-02-79	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
14 DF	Dmitriy KICHSHENKO	29-03-79	Ferro-Aktube	KAZ
15 MF	Murat DINAYEV	08-01-80	Zhiger-Shimk	KAZ
16 MF	Vitaliy ARTEMOV	16-02-79	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
17 DF	Konstantin ZEMTSOV	24-07-80	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
18 GK	Denis SOLOVARENKO	04-04-79	Kajrat-Almaty	KAZ
Coach: FOMICHYOV Vladimir (KAZ)				

KOREA REPUBLIC

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	KIM Yong-Dae	11-10-79	Yonsei Univ	KOR
2 DF	AN Hong Chan	22-01-80	Sung Univ	KOR
3 DF	LEE Bum Jig	11-02-79	Taegu Uni	KOR
4 DF	SHIN Dong Keun	15-02-81	Chunggu	KOR
5 DF	PARK Dong Hyuk	18-04-79	Korea Uni	KOR
6 DF	SONG Chong Gug	20-02-79	Yonsei Uni	KOR
7 MF	SEO Ki Bok	28-01-79	Yonsei Uni	KOR
8 DF	CHUN Jae Ho	08-08-79	Hongik Uni	KOR
9 FW	NAH Hee Geun	05-05-79	A-Joo Univ	KOR
10 FW	KIM Eun Jung	08-04-79	Taejon	KOR
11 FW	SEOL Ki Hyeon	08-01-79	Kwang Uni	KOR
12 GK	HAN Dong Jin	25-08-79	Sangji Uni	KOR
13 MF	KIM Kun Hyung	11-09-79	Kyunghee	KOR
14 MF	KIM Kyung Il	30-08-80	Chunnam	KOR
15 FW	SEO Kwan Soo	25-02-80	Dankook	KOR
16 FW	KO Bong Hyun	02-07-79	Hongik Uni	KOR
17 FW	WOO Jin Seok	26-08-79	Yonsei Uni	KOR
18 FW	LEE Dong Gook	29-04-79	Pohang	KOR
Coach: CHO Young Jeung (KOR)				

MALI

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	Boubacar B. KEITA	30-06-79	Stade Malien	MLI
2 FW	Dramane DRAMANE	18-03-79	Marseille	FRA
3 DF	TRAORE Abdou	05-08-81	C.SK.	MLI
4 DF	COULIBALY Adama	09-10-80	Djoliba	MLI
5 MF	CISSE Sadio Baba	02-04-79	Stade Malien	MLI
6 MF	TOUNKARA Bakou	13-06-80	Djoliba	MLI
7 FW	N DIAYE Tenema	13-02-81	Djoliba	MLI
8 MF	DIARRA Mahamadou	18-05-81	OFI Crete	GRE
9 FW	BAGAYOKO Mamadou	21-05-79	Sens	MLI
10 FW	KEITA Seydou	13-12-81	Marseille	FRA
11 FW	SISSOKO Sidi Makan	10-04-81	AS Sigui	MLI
12 DF	COULIBALY Amadou	05-12-81	Sion	SUI
13 DF	CAMARA Abdoulaye	02-01-80	Udinese	ITA
14 FW	DIARRA Mamadou	08-01-80	Stade Malien	MLI
15 FW	DISSA Mahamadou	18-05-79	C.SK.	MLI
16 GK	TRAORE Issiaka	02-03-80	Djoliba	MLI
17 DF	DIAKITE Sega	14-11-80	Stade Malien	MLI
18 FW	GUINDO Boubacar	30-05-81	Antalya	TUR
Coach: COULIBALY Mamadou (MLI)				

MEXICO

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	Christian MARTINEZ	16-10-79	Cuautitlan	MEX
2 DF	Mario MÉNDEZ	01-06-79	Atlas	MEX
3 GK	Oscar MASCORRO	31-01-79	Queretaro	MEX
4 DF	Rafael MÁRQUEZ	13-02-79	Atlas	MEX
5 MF	Carlos MORALES	09-06-79	Morelia	MEX
6 MF	Gerardo TORRADO	30-04-79	Pumas	MEX
7 FW	Alejandro NAVA	20-09-79	Chivas	MEX
8 MF	Cesareo VICTORINO	19-03-79	Pachuca	MEX
9 FW	Jesus MENDOZA	10-01-79	Leon	MEX
10 MF	Juan Pablo RODRIGUEZ	07-08-79	Atlas	MEX
11 FW	Daniel OSORNO	16-03-79	Atlas	MEX
12 GK	Juan De Dios IBARRA	16-02-79	Saltillo	MEX
13 MF	Luis GONZALEZ L.	28-06-80	Pumas	MEX
14 FW	Eduardo RODRIGUEZ	13-09-79	Correc	MEX
15 MF	Jonathan MARTINEZ	21-02-79	America	MEX
16 DF	Rodolfo PACHECO	05-07-79	Pumas	MEX
17 DF	Margarito GONZALEZ M.	03-03-79	Tapatio	MEX
18 DF	Hector REYNOSO	09-03-80	Guadalajara	MEX
Coach: DEL MURO LOPEZ Jesus (MEX)				

NIGERIA

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	Sam OKOYE	01-05-80	Rangers	NGA
2 MF	Gbenga Samuel OKUNOWO	01-03-79	CF Barca	ESP
3 DF	Ikenna ENEH	14-02-80	Rangers	NGA
4 DF	Obinna Okwudili OKPALA	15-07-79	Celtic	SCO
5 DF	John ARANKA	23-12-80	Cement	NGA
6 DF	Ozuah Sudy IKEMEFUNA	24-12-81	Jasper	NGA
7 FW	Haruna BABANGIDA	01-10-82	CF Barca	ESP
8 FW	Hashimu GARBA	14-04-80	Verona	ITA
9 MF	Chinwuzo Gabriel MELKAM	13-03-80	W'scheid	GER
10 MF	Abubakar MUSA	17-01-79	Cement	NGA
11 MF	Ganiyu Aremu SHITTU	22-12-79	Dusseldorf	GER
2 GK	Dominic ORUMA	17-07-80	Sharks	NGA
13 MF	Pius Nelson IKEDIA	11-07-80	Mimosas	CIV
14 FW	Joseph YOBO	06-09-80	St Liege	BEL
15 DF	Rabiu AFOLABI	18-04-80	St Liege	BEL
16 DF	Chikelue ILEONYOSI	13-10-80	Fenerbahce	NGA
17 MF	Julius AGHAHOWA	12-02-82	Insurance	NGA
18 FW	Eddy Lord DOMBRAYE	11-11-79	LKS Lodz	POL
Coach: OLATUNDE Nurudeen Disu (NGA)				

PARAGUAY

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	Christian FLORENTÍN	02-05-79	Cerro Cora	PAR
2 DF	Emilio MARTINEZ	10-04-81	Nacional	PAR
3 DF	Roberto BLANCO	17-04-80	Sportivo	PAR
4 DF	Paulo DA SILVA	01-02-80	Perugia	ITA
5 DF	Ruben MALDONADO	25-04-79	Olimpia	PAR
6 MF	Ever GIMÉNEZ	20-04-79	San Lorenzo	PAR
7 FW	Sergio FERNÁNDEZ	31-07-79	Cerro Cora	PAR
8 MF	Isidro CANDIA	15-05-79	Luqueno	PAR
9 FW	Roque SANTA CRUZ	16-08-81	Olimpia	PAR
10 MF	Francisco ESCOBAR	03-12-79	Luqueno	PAR
11 DF	Nelson CUEVAS	10-01-80	River Plate	ARG
12 GK	Roberto BAGNOLI	16-02-80	Iteno	PAR
13 FW	Nelson VERA	07-10-79	Nacional	PAR
14 DF	Elvis MARECOS	15-02-80	Iteno	PAR
15 MF	Salvador CABAÑAS	05-08-80	Octubre	PAR
16 MF	Jorge BRITIZ	08-02-81	Octubre	PAR
17 DF	Walter FRETES	27-02-79	Olimpia	PAR
18 FW	Miguel DOMÍNGUEZ	30-09-79	Tembetary	PAR
Coach: JACQUET Mario (PAR)				

PORTUGAL

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	SÉRGIO	16-08-79	Boavista	POR
2 DF	Filipe ANUNCIACÃO	27-05-79	Feirense	POR
3 DF	Marco Antonio CANEIRA	09-02-79	Beira Mar	POR
4 DF	Andre Gil CORREIA	09-02-79	Maia	POR
5 DF	Frederico Emanuel FREDY	14-08-79	Felgueiras	POR
6 MF	Hugo Miguel H. LEAL	21-05-80	Benfica	POR
7 DF	Ricardo Filipe R. ESTEVES	16-09-79	Oriental Lx	POR
8 MF	Ricardo R. SOUSA	11-01-79	Beira Mar	POR
9 FW	Paulo Sergio P. COSTA	05-12-79	Lourin	POR
10 FW	Simao Pedro SIMÃO	31-10-79	Sp Lisbon	POR
11 MF	Luis Miguel ALHANDRA	05-03-79	Lourinh	POR
12 GK	Marcio Alexandre MÁRCIO S.	05-05-79	Lourinh	POR
13 FW	Filipe Manuel F. CÂNDIDO	28-09-79	Salgueiros	POR
14 FW	Luis Filipe L. FILIPE	14-06-79	Academica	POR
15 MF	Marco Claudio M. CLAUDIO	05-05-79	Uniao Sport	POR
16 MF	Joao Alexandre NECA	31-12-79	Belenenses	POR
17 FW	Daniel DANI	03-03-80	South'ton	ENG
18 DF	Hugo Miguel CARREIRA	10-03-79	Deportivo	POR
Coach: FERREIRA Jesualdo (POR)				

SAUDI ARABIA

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	ZAID Mabrouk	11-02-79	Riyadh	KSA
2 DF	AL SHEHRI Fouzi	15-05-80	AL Qadis	KSA
3 DF	ALBAHRI Ahmed	18-09-80	AL Ettifaq	KSA
4 DF	AL MUTAIRI Bandr	09-07-80	Al Hilal	KSA
5 DF	OMAR Tariq	20-07-80	Al Ittihad	KSA
6 MF	AL SUBAIE Fahad	15-11-79	Al Shabab	KSA
7 MF	AL SAQRI Saleh	23-01-79	Al Tae	KSA
8 MF	AL SHEHRI Saad	09-01-80	AL Ettifaq	KSA
9 FW	DABO Mohamad	28-05-79	Al Ahli	KSA
10 MF	AL HAGBANI Bader	17-01-79	Al Nasr	KSA
11 FW	AL ABDULAZIZ Talal	16-12-79	Al Nasr	KSA
12 MF	AL SHAYEI Turki	28-08-79	Al Hilal	KSA
13 DF	AL GARNI Omar	29-04-79	Al Ittihad	KSA
14 MF	AL SHAHRANI Mansour	16-05-79	Al Hilal	KSA
15 FW	AL ZAHRANI Fahad	02-02-79	Al Ahli	KSA
16 DF	AL OBAILI Faisal	08-02-79	Al Shabab	KSA
17 FW	AL ABEAH Abdulrahman	28-05-79	AL Ettifaq	KSA
18 GK	AL MAS Bandar	11-05-80	Al Hilal	KSA
Coach: HAMBERG Pieter (HOL)				

SPAIN

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	Daniel ARANZUBIA	18-09-79	Bilbao	ESP
2 DF	Pablo COIRA	18-10-79	Compostela	ESP
3 DF	David BERMUDO	30-11-79	Barca	ESP
4 DF	Francisco Javier JUSUÉ	30-11-79	Osasuna	ESP
5 DF	Pablo ORBAIZ	06-02-79	Osasuna	ESP
6 MF	Carlos MARCHENA	31-07-79	FC Seville	ESP
7 MF	Gabriel Francisco GABRI	10-02-79	Barcelone	ESP
8 MF	Xavier XAVI	25-01-80	Barcelone	ESP
9 FW	Pablo PABLO	09-08-79	Numancia	ESP
10 MF	Gonzalo COLSA	02-04-79	Logrones	ESP
11 MF	Francisco Javier YESTE	06-12-79	Bilbao	ESP
12 MF	Fernando VARELA	01-09-79	Betis Seville	ESP
13 GK	Iker IKER	20-05-81	Real Madrid	ESP
14 FW	Alejandro ALEX	01-03-79	Lugo	ESP
15 MF	Gerard GERARD	12-03-79	Alaves	ESP
16 MF	Jose Javier BARKERO	27-04-79	Sociedad	ESP
17 FW	Ruben RUBEN	19-02-79	Gijon	ESP
18 DF	Alvaro ALVARO	18-04-79	Zaragoza	ESP
Coach: SAEZ RUIZ Inaki (ESP)				

URUGUAY

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	Hector Fabian CARINI	26-12-79	Danubio	URU
2 DF	Fernando CARREÑO	15-01-79	Penarol	URU
3 DF	Gonzalo SORONDO	09-10-79	Defensor	URU
4 DF	Czrls Richard DÍAZ	04-02-79	Defensor	URU
5 MF	Omar Heber POUSO	28-02-80	Danubio	URU
6 DF	Cesar Eduardo PELLEGRÍN	05-03-79	Ternana	ITA
7 MF	Alejandro CORREA	26-11-79	Nacional	URU
8 MF	Diego Fernando PEREZ	18-05-80	Defensor	URU
9 FW	Ernesto Javier CHEVANTON	10-08-79	Danubio	URU
10 FW	Martin Ricardo LIGUERA	09-11-80	Nacional	URU
11 FW	Jorge Luis ANCHEN	17-08-80	Danubio	URU
12 GK	Mauricio Daniel NANNI	12-07-79	Danubio	URU
13 MF	Damian MACALUSO	09-03-80	River Plate	ARG
14 FW	Diego FORLAN	19-05-79	Independ	ARG
15 DF	Fernando ALBERMAGGER	19-01-79	Penarol	URU
16 MF	Luis Fernando MACHADO	26-09-79	Pumas	MEX
17 FW	Nestor Fabian CANOBBIO	08-03-80	Progreso	URU
18 FW	Daniel CARDOZO	27-04-79	Huracan	URU
Coach: PUA Victor (URU)				

United States

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	Nicholas Paul RIMANDO	17-06-79	UCLA	USA
2 MF	John Gerard THORRINGTON	17-10-79	Man Utd.	ENG
3 MF	Nicholas Castellanos GARCIA	09-04-79	Indiana Uni	USA
4 DF	Daniel Benjamin CALIFF	17-03-79	Maryland U	USA
5 MF	Rustin Curtis PIERCE	24-07-79	Greensboro	USA
6 DF	Steve CHERUNDOLO	19-02-79	Hannover 96	USA
7 MF	Nicholas Scot DOWNING	25-01-80	Maryland	USA
8 DF	Lee Michael Wilfred MORRISON	10-08-79	Stanford	USA
9 MF	Ryan Arnold FUTAGAKI	17-01-80	UCLA	USA
10 FW	Christopher John ALBRIGHT	14-01-79	Virginia	USA
11 MF	Francisco GOMEZ	25-01-79	Kansas City	USA
12 MF	Shaun Nikolas TSAKIRIS	16-02-79	UCLA	USA
13 DF	Carlos Manuel BOCANEGRA	25-05-79	UCLA	USA
14 MF	Matthew GOLDSMITH	27-04-79	Furman U	USA
15 FW	Taylor Timothy TWELLMAN	29-02-80	Maryland	USA
16 MF	Cory Delano GIBBS	14-01-80	Brown Uni	USA
17 FW	Thomas Jamar BEASLEY	11-10-79	N England	USA
18 GK	Timothy Matthew HOWARD	06-03-79	MetroStars	USA
Coach: SCHMID Sigi (USA)				

ZAMBIA

No Pos	Name	DOB	Club	Country
1 GK	Stanley MUMBA	22-11-79	Power	ZAM
2 DF	Mwelwa PHIRI	20-07-79	Power	ZAM
3 DF	Aaron SIMUTOWE	02-02-80	Zamsure	ZAM
4 DF	Kenny ZIMBA	27-09-80	Kalulushi	ZAM
5 MF	Ian BAKALA	01-11-80	Germinal	BEL
6 MF	Gift KAMPAMBA	01-01-79	Nkana	ZAM
7 FW	Japhet MAKAYI	15-11-79	Power	ZAM
8 MF	Ronald MBAMBARA	12-03-79	Nchanga	ZAM
9 MF	Francis KASONDE	28-12-79	Konkola	ZAM
10 FW	Ronald Nsomfwa CHASWE	22-10-80	Zanaco	ZAM
11 DF	Evans Kaluba MWABA	10-10-79	Nchanga	ZAM
12 DF	Kampamba CHINTU	28-12-80	Kabwe	ZAM
13 DF	Festus MANGAMU	15-11-81	Railway	ZAM
14 MF	Perry MUTAPA	18-11-79	Farense	POR
15 MF	Emmanuel ZULU	03-01-81	Zanaco	ZAM
16 GK	Stephen KABWE	22-08-79	Nchanga	ZAM
17 MF	Andrew Mutambo SINKALA	18-06-79	Nchanga	ZAM
18 FW	Bernard MAKUFI	06-01-79	Nkana	ZAM
Coach:	PHIRI Patrick (ZAM)			

FIRST STAGE GROUP A

03-04-99	Lagos	Nigeria 1	Costa Rica 1
04-04-99	Lagos	Germany 4	Paraguay 0
07-04-99	Lagos	16:00 Nigeria vs. Germany	
07-04-99	Lagos	19:00 Costa Rica vs. Paraguay	
10-04-99	Lagos	16:00 Nigeria vs. Paraguay	
10-04-99	Lagos	19:00 Costa Rica vs. Germany	

GROUP B

04-04-99	Kaduna	Ghana 1	Croatia 1
04-04-99	Kaduna	Argentina 1	Kazakhstan 0
07-04-99	Kaduna	16:00 Ghana vs. Argentina	
07-04-99	Kaduna	19:00 Croatia vs. Kazakhstan	
10-04-99	Kaduna	16:00 Ghana vs. Kazakhstan	
10-04-99	Kaduna	19:00 Croatia vs. Argentina	

GROUP C

04-04-99	Ibadan	Australia 3	Saudi Arabia 1
04-04-99	Ibadan	Mexico 1	Ireland 0
07-04-99	Ibadan	16:00 Australia vs. Mexico	
07-04-99	Ibadan	19:00 Saudi Arabia vs. Ireland	
10-04-99	Ibadan	16:00 Australia vs. Ireland	
10-04-99	Ibadan	19:00 Saudi Arabia vs. Mexico	

GROUP D

05-04-99	Enugu	16:00 Uruguay vs. Mali	
05-04-99	Enugu	19:00 Korea Republic vs. Portugal	
08-04-99	Enugu	16:00 Uruguay vs. Korea Republic	
08-04-99	Enugu	19:00 Mali vs. Portugal	
11-04-99	Enugu	16:00 Uruguay vs. Portugal	
11-04-99	Enugu	19:00 Mali vs. Korea Republic	

GROUP E

05-04-99	Kano	16:00 Cameroon vs. Japan	
05-04-99	Kano	19:00 England vs. United States	
08-04-99	Kano	16:00 Cameroon vs. England	
08-04-99	Bauchi	19:00 Japan vs. United States	
11-04-99	Bauchi	16:00 Cameroon vs. United States	
11-04-99	Bauchi	19:00 Japan vs. England	

GROUP F

05-04-99	Calabar	16:00 Zambia vs. Honduras	
05-04-99	Calabar	19:00 Spain vs. Brazil	
08-04-99	Calabar	16:00 Zambia vs. Spain	
08-04-99	Port Harcourt	16:00 Honduras vs. Brazil	
11-04-99	Port Harcourt	16:00 Zambia vs. Brazil	
11-04-99	Port Harcourt	19:00 Honduras vs. Spain	

SECOND STAGE

ROUND OF 16

14-04-99	Kano	16:00 2nd C vs. 2nd A	
14-04-99	Kaduna	16:00 1st B vs. 3rd ACD	
14-04-99	Lagos	19:00 1st A vs. 3rd CDE	
14-04-99	Calabar	19:00 2nd F vs. 2nd B	
15-04-99	Bauchi	16:00 1st E vs. 2nd D	
15-04-99	Port Harcourt	16:00 1st F vs. 2nd E	
15-04-99	Ibadan	19:00 1st C vs. 3rd ABF	
15-04-99	Enugu	19:00 1st D vs. 3rd BEF	

QUARTERFINALS

18-04-99	Lagos	16:00 Winner 39 vs. Winner 40	
18-04-99	Enugu	16:00 Winner 44 vs. Winner 37	
18-04-99	Ibadan	19:00 Winner 41 vs. Winner 43	
18-04-99	Kaduna	19:00 Winner 42 vs. Winner 38	

SEMIFINALS

21-03-99	Kaduna	16:00 Winner 46 vs. Winner 48	
21-04-99	Lagos	19:00 Winner 45 vs. Winner 47	

THIRD PLACE

24-04-99	Lagos	14:00 L 50 vs. L 49	
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FINAL

24-04-99	Lagos	17:00 Winner 50 vs. Winner 49	
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Australia's Traveling Party

Head of Delegation	John Barker
Team Manager (Coach)	Les Scheinflug
Head of Administration	Jamie Crocker
National Olympic Coach	Raul Blanco
Press Officer	Peter Desira
Assistant Coach	Mike Milovanovic
Team Doctor	Joe Terminello
Masseur	Charlie Jurisic
Equipment Manager	Orazio Di Carlo

Saturday 3 April

Group A	Costa Rica 1
Nigeria 1	Melendez 83pen
Aghahowa 20	
Halftime: 1-0	
Attendance: 45,000	

Sunday April 4

Group A	Paraguay 0
Germany 4	
Kern 45, 60, 69	
Falk 89	
Red card: Miguel Dominguez (Paraguay)	
Halftime: 1-0	
Attendance: 3,000	

Group B

Ghana 1	Croatia 1
Ofori-Quaye 60	Deranja 22
Halftime: 0-1	
Attendance: 5,000	

Argentina 1

Cambiasso 44	Kazakhstan 0
Halftime: 1-0	
Attendance: 5,000	

Group C

Australia 3	Saudi Arabia 1
Culina 29	Mohammed 90
Maisino 70	
own goal 76	
Halftime: 1-0	
Attendance: 3,000	

Mexico 1

Marquez 9	Ireland 0
Halftime: 1-0	
Attendance: 3,000	

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Germany	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
2. Costa Rica	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
3. Nigeria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
4. Paraguay	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Argentina	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
2. Croatia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
3. Ghana	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
4. Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Australia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
2. Mexico	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
3. Ireland	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
4. Saudi Arabia	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Agents among the happy ones in Nigerian heat

from Lagos

CHAMPIONS Argentina will be going for a hat-trick of titles in the World Youth Cup when large numbers of agents, hoping to snap up young talent at bargain prices, will be among the most interested spectators.

The South Americans, who beat their biggest rivals Brazil in the 1995 final in Qatar and their second-biggest rivals, Uruguay in 1997 in Malaysia, began the defence of their crown against Kazakhstan in Kaduna on Sunday.

The Argentines arrived in Africa in fine fettle, having won eight of their nine matches in winning the South American qualifying tournament in January when 19-year-old striker Luciano Gallati from Estudiantes scored nine of their goals.

Coach Jose Peckerman, who led Argentina to its previous two victories, is once again in charge.

Hosts Nigeria, whose handling of the competition is likely to attract much attention, opened the tournament when it faced Costa Rica in Lagos on Saturday.

It aims to become the first African nation to win the

title.

Although England's team in Lagos contains a few players with top-flight domestic experience, the English Football Association did not force its premier league clubs to send anyone to Nigeria who was a regular first team player.

Up-and-coming players such as Harry Smith from Leeds United will, therefore, not be on show in Nigeria.

Some of the other European nations have followed England's example in sending second-string outfits because of domestic league commitments and this leaves South America with an excellent chance of securing another youth title.

Brazil, which scored 10 goals a game twice in Malaysia before a quarter-final defeat by Argentina, is always a threat.

But this year its preparations have been somewhat tumultuous.

Coach Toninho Barroso resigned shortly after he had picked the squad for the tournament and the team will be one of the most health-conscious at the finals.

Despite the tropical heat, malaria-fearing Brazil will train in tracksuit trousers to avoid mosquito bites and may even play their matches in long-sleeved shirts.

But the Brazilians will want to follow the example of midfielder Dunga, who won the title in 1983 and then went on to lead his country at two World Cups.

They have plenty of talent at their disposal, with an attack spearheaded by 19-year-old Fernando Baiano, who scored five goals in a single Libertadores Cup match this month.

Europe, with only six teams present, could find that their best hopes lie with Portugal, champions in 1989 and 1991.

Hugo Leal, 18, the youngest player in their squad, has already attracted the interest of several Italian clubs with his excellent tactical vision.

Portugal's free-kick specialists Simao Sabrosa is valued at \$A23.75 million and he has attracted interest from Barcelona.

Germany has invested less than many other countries in youth football over the past few years and its side is not that strong.

Germany's appearance in the Cyprus final of the under-18

Brazil stamp their own class of Samba Magic on the WYC

THE World Youth Cup began in Tunisia in 1977 modestly enough, with the FIFA Technical Report bemoaning the lack of spectators.

But by the early 1990s the championship had grown to an event of enormous importance with worldwide television coverage.

The World Youth Cup has swept the football globe realising a project which Dr Joao Havelange had promised when he took office in 1974.

Above all, however, the success of the concept of this competition has always depended upon the particular flavour of the games: the flavour of youth, of spontaneity, of adventure.

The inevitable teething troubles experienced in Tunisia in 1977 were mostly smoothed out by the next competition in Japan in 1979, one of the first major international football events in that country which helped to trigger interest and enthusiasm for the sport there.

And the role of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup as an ambassador to so-called "developing" football countries continued

in 1981, when it went Down Under for the first time.

In 1983, however, the event enjoyed its first really enormous success in a traditionally strong football country, Mexico, where the final between Brazil and Argentina drew a capacity crowd of 105,000.

The Soviet Union hosted the finals in 1985, in 1987 it went to South America for the first (and so far only) time when Chile was the organiser, and in 1989 the futuristic King Fahd Stadium on the outskirts of Riyadh was the spectacular setting for several matches.

The 1991 final saw even the 1983 attendance eclipsed, as 127,000 - the second largest crowd ever to attend a FIFA match - crammed into Lisbon's Stadium of Light to cheer the home team to a repeat of their 1989 victory.

In 1993, the Australians revived memories of the 1981 finals and surpassed them with a superbly organised championship to which the Young Socceroos made their own thrilling contribution.

Latin football domi-

nated the 1995 event in Qatar (which had taken over the role of hosts at barely three weeks' notice after Nigeria was considered unable to stage it) as well as the 1997 tournament in Malaysia.

The list of honours over the years is led by Brazil with three gold medals and two silvers.

Only Argentina, winners in 1979 (with a team containing the likes of Diego Maradona and Ramon Diaz), 1995 and 1997, and Portugal with their wins in 1989 and 1991, have also claimed the trophy more than once.

The other winners were USSR (in 1977 with a line-up featuring young Vladimir Bessonov as the competition's outstanding individual), West Germany (in 1981 against a surprise team from Qatar) and Yugoslavia, whose 1987 vintage included today's Croatian stars Boban, Prosinecki and Suker.

Africa has twice supplied the losing finalists, Ghana producing a marvellous display to take the silver in Australia in 1993 and Nigeria running Portugal close in 1989.

European championship last July therefore came as a surprise.

Gifted teenagers such as Sebastian Deisler (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Fabian Ernst (Hamburg SV) and Sebastian Schindzielorz (VfL Bochum) play regularly in their club's first teams and have not travelled to Nigeria.

Star of the squad is playmaker Patrick Falk of Bayer Leverkusen who was concerned about the weather in Nigeria.

"To play under such temperatures is crazy," he said.

Germany, who lost 2-1 to Mexico in its last warm-up match on Monday, played its first game against Paraguay on Sunday.

With 24 countries taking part, the teams are to be divided into six groups of four.

The top two in each group, plus the four third-placed teams with the best records, then progress to the knockout stage.

The allocation system for the tournament has allowed lesser soccer nations such as Mali, Zambia, Kazakhstan and Honduras to take part while France, the Netherlands and Italy are among those missing out.

But, with major European clubs happy to buy talent from the most obscure nations, there will still be plenty to keep the agents happy.

CHAMPIONS DUMPED

by Bruce Campbell

ILLAWARRA Champion side Wollongong White Eagles were sensationally dumped out of the Premier League just hours before the season kicked off last weekend.

Centre of the storm which has rocked Illawarra football was the decision taken by the White Eagles board to field players which were ineligible under current ISA rules.

The existing rule states that no club may sign more than four players in any one season from outside of the region.

But with an exodus of players from their Grand Final winning team the

White Eagles imported a new squad, mainly from Sydney.

"We didn't have any choice," club official Michael Prodanovic told *Inside Soccer*.

"Some of our players from last year were offered huge money that we just couldn't match.

"But we sought legal advice which indicated that we could bring in the players, despite the ruling."

White Eagles were forced to forfeit a game in the recent Corrimal Cup.

Then they played the ineligible players in a Bampton Cup tie against Bellambi.

"We had no real

choice," ISA president Norm Flanagan said.

"They have to abide by the rules and they chose not to.

"It wasn't a case of just one player either - it was ten of them.

"They took the case to an Appeals Board and they lost that appeal.

"It was then up to them to accept the decision of the ISA.

"After all, we don't make the rules, the clubs do. We are just here to enforce them.

"If White Eagles do not like the rules then they should have them changed.

"Get the other clubs to agree and change them.

"But they didn't even bother to turn up at the last clubs' meeting."

Last season Wollongong White Eagles won the Grand Final against Port Kembla.

1999 looked to be a big year for the champions even although they were forced to move from their home ground at Herb Clunas Park.

They had been booked to play their fixtures this season at Brandon Park and would have been a huge drawcard in local

football.

With the potential to draw regular crowds of one thousand plus they were also amongst the early favourites to make the Top 4 again.

Their sensational dumping on the eve of the season robbed Round 1 of a glamour fixture with Cringila Lions, last season's league premiers.

White Eagles officials are claiming that they have not been officially notified of the ISA's decision although Flanagan disputes this.

"That isn't true," he says.

"We notified them by fax.

"The board (of Illawarra Soccer Association) had other other options but what do you do when a club just doesn't want to play within the rules?"

"There has been no adverse reaction from the soccer community either."

White Eagles may now seek to appeal to a higher authority, either New South Wales SF or Soccer Australia although it looks more likely that the matter will end up in the law courts.

Rams News



Macarthur Rams expect injury worries Graham Watton and Jimmy Aschner to play a part in their hunt for honours this season.

Watton and Aschner were both injured in pre-season but while Watton is expected to take his place shortly it is unlikely that Aschner will be back anything before the second half of the season.

SUPPORT at Rams games this season has been staggering, particularly the recent special promotion when a crowd of 2,000 turned out for the home match against Parramatta Eagles.

NEXT week sees the Rams special school holiday coaching clinic with coaching from Brian Dene and the club's first grade players.

FIVE Rams players have been selected in the NSW Super League squad for the now annual clash against the Northern NSW on ANZAC Day.

Players selected are John Crawley, Kain Rastall, David Reid, Trevor Whiddett and Dion Valle.

AND THE UWS Macarthur women's league side got their season off to a great start against their highly fancied NSL based opponents.

A destruction of Marconi

was followed by a great 1-1 draw against the very highly talented Sydney United team.

CAMDEN TIGERS is just one of the clubs making up the MDSFA.

Just now they have an SOS out for junior players to fill their Under 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and All Age sides.

Contact Cheryl Wright on 4652 336 for more information.

CLUB Stalwarts Rob Laws and Gary Cremming have hit the air waves on FM100.3 every Tuesday on the breakfast show at 7.30am with a full round-up of soccer news.

A FIVE hundred membership base for the Macarthur Rams Supporters Club makes it the envy of every club in Australia - at any level.

The committee of Bob Granger, Anne Pearson, Debby Duggan,

Elizabeth Alexander and Dianne McKenna have come up with some top ideas already - including a \$10 annual membership fee which gets supporters into all rams home games.

JOHN CLAYTON is a huge Rams supporter who has just added a winter competition to the list of events at his popular Campbelltown Indoor Soccer Centre.

Enquiries to John on 4626 1700.



Dion Valle

Heading for Europe

PRAIRIEWOOD United is planning to send its Under 16 side to compete in next year's Mediterranean Trophy at Blanes, north of Barcelona.

Under coach Frank Carabatta ambitious plans also include playing in the Coppa San Siro in Milan and the Rocella Cup in southern Italy.

The three week tour marks a continual growth period for the club which started out in 1983 with just two senior teams. Nowadays the club has twenty teams.

Prairiewood United is offering trials for any players interested in joining the touring party which will leave Australia on April 12 for three weeks to contact Pat Agostino on 0418 112 404.

Giampaolo to ignite the flames at Canberra Olympic

by Nick Guoth

The 1999 ACT season kicks-off next Sunday.

Will Belconnen United repeat their performance from last season and take all the silverware?

Last year's champions have been decimated by transfers through the off-season.

They are definitely not the same team and will struggle to regain the form that took them all the way.

A new force will emerge this winter and that will be Canberra Olympic.

Canberra Deakin will also rise from the pack to make their appearance this year in the finals thus relegating Capital City Suns to one step outside the playoffs.

At the other end, it will be new boys Burns Club fighting it out with Queanbeyan City for the last position and fortunately for them, there is no longer a relegation/promotion system.

Now to step on some toes here are my

brave predictions for the upcoming year's competition.

Belconnen United: Last season they took out

all three trophies, Federation Cup, Championship and Final Four.

I believe that the competition this season will be much harder.



Former Soccerroo Baz Giampaolo tipped to do well in his first year in charge at Canberra Olympic

They have lost a number of players and are replacing them with somewhat inexperienced youth.

They will struggle against the stronger teams and will not be the force of last season.

Under the coaching of Lino Fiorese the result will come.

I see them just making the playoffs, although this isn't guaranteed. Prediction: 4th

Burns Club:

This team came up from Division 2 last season, under what appeared to be controversial circumstances, but now that they are in the top flight, the club wants to stay there.

Steve Bryant will bring some solid coaching to get the team going and along with Alan Strachan and Peter Thompson this team won't be embarrassed too often.

There are too many youngsters, and too much inexperience. Prediction: 9th

Canberra Deakin:

After last season's debacle, new coach Ian Shaw has picked up the pieces and brought together a solid team that will bring the results back to Deakin Oval.

It appears that solid defender Mladin Rogic will return to playing and together with the youngsters who will return from the ACT Academy squad, this team will do well. Prediction: 3rd

Canberra Olympic:

This team only gets better.

Their one significant loss has been Baz Giampaolo and he changed to coach.

But their gains have included the likes of Geoff Howarth.

The team is stacked with ACT representative players and will see the return of Toplica Popovich to join his two brothers.

Early season form has shown how organised this team is. Prediction: 1st

Capital City Suns:

In the top flight for their second season, the Suns will be struggling to find the same form as last year.

Even so, they still have a solid team.

This team has a nice blend of youth and experience and through coach Bill Dojcinowski will fight for a Top Four place.

Rumour also has it that Shane Lyons may come

back from Europe to play for the Suns.

Prediction: 5th

Gungahlin Juventus:

Another team that has improved immensely since last season's poor performance.

Pre-season form hasn't shown too many good signs, but the team is young and learning.

A lot will revolve around how well Billy Willox picks up the pieces and how the experienced players perform.

The likes of Oscar Zamora will help, but I do not see this team threatening in the end. Prediction: 6th

Monaro:

They fought Belconnen all the way last season for the title, but fell short at the last hurdle.

This year they will have another foe, and one even more organised.

Will they be good enough to step up that one extra notch?

Ian Heywood has supplemented his squad with Galeotti from Belconnen and Simenov from Queanbeyan City to name two.

The structure of the team is basically the same as last season and they will fight tooth and nail for the Championship. Prediction: 2nd

Queanbeyan City Lions:

With the loss of their coach and a number of players from last year, City will struggle.

The Queanbeyan community will really need to get behind their team to help it during the season.

Peter Gjorgievski is currently running the team, whilst also President of the club.

It will be a hard run for him and whomever may take over, and they will struggle to avoid the wooden spoon. Prediction: 10th

University of Canberra:

The students could be the surprise packet.

They have developed a very good youth program and have gained a number of players from Canberra City.

Rod Lynes takes over as coach and although not expected to perform miracles, looks to be handling a team that will be competitive, yet not finals material. Prediction: 8th

Weston Creek Royals:

Two seasons ago, Weston made the Top Four for the first time.

This season it appears they will struggle to repeat this for sometime.

Still there are a number of strong players in the team and if Steve Lazzeri continues his scoring form, results may come.

Jimmy Bland continues from last season and with basically the same squad.

On early form the team shows some promise, but it is unlikely they will be in the fight for final's places. Prediction: 7th

Ilic nets after keeper fumble

IN A lacklustre match in the NSW Super League Canterbury's Zoran Ilic scored the only goal of the game in the 14th minute after Rams keeper John Crawley could only parry a shot by Nick Bosevski.

From then on in it seemed that the Berries were content to put the shutters up and get as many players behind the ball as possible.

It had the effect of killing the game from a spectator point of view but, with the benefit of an early away goal, it was a sound tactical move.

While Crawley was definitely at fault with Canterbury's goal, at the other end Steve Tolios took everything he had to with ease.

Crawley did make amends with a couple of good saves but the Rams never really looked like getting into this game.

Just three minutes before half time the Rams had the best chance to equalise when Trevor Whiddett's cross was only narrowly snatched away from Eric Williams. It was brilliant anticipation from Tolios and he was rarely troubled after that.

In the second half Canterbury had a couple of chances to stretch their lead, maybe the best being a fine shot by Bosevski in 77 minutes.

But Crawley atoned for his first half fumble by saving brilliantly.

Macarthur started to push forward more from

**MACARTHUR RAMS 0
CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 1 (Ilic)**
Venue: Lynwood Park
Man of the Match: Steve Christoforidis CANT

this point on but Canterbury always looked good in defence.

David Reid did get the ball in the back of the net on 80 minutes after a run by Ian Macdonald but referee John Cameron ruled it offside.

BLACKTOWN City Demons extended their unbeaten run to five games on Good Friday, overcoming Bankstown City Lions two goals to one at Jensen Park.

This contest had all the makings of a cracker, with Bankstown the competition's leading scorers with 21 prior to the game and Blacktown with the meanest defence - just 8 conceded.

It lived up to all expectations.

Thanks to the excellent draining at Jensen Park the rain that had fallen in Sydney didn't cause too much of a problem, and referee Brett Hugo also used his experience to try and keep the game flowing.

The Demons opened strongly, pinning the Lions back and were rewarded with an early goal.

Just five minutes had elapsed when a cross field ball from Damien Brown fell into the path of Chris Bradley, who put over a beautiful cross for striker Jason Bennett

to guide a header past Bankstown's Zlatko Josevski.

Josevski then saved well from Jon Angelucci as Blacktown looked to control the game, but Bankstown came back strongly.

Midfielder Alex Trposki was prominent in Bankstown's best moves, and was unlucky after 22 minutes when his shot was saved by the feet of Blacktown's Fernando Greco.

Just four minutes later and Bankstown were back on level terms.

Stewart Van Bentum mis-hit a shot but Zoki Adioski reacted quickest, netting his sixth goal of the season.

Bankstown suffered a huge blow just a minute before half time however, when caretaker player coach Mile Todoroski was shown red for two bookable offences.

There was still time left though in the half for Adioski to chip Greco in Blacktown's goal, only for the ball to hit the post and bounce back into the arms of the grateful goalkeeper.

Blacktown used their numerical advantage in the second period to control the game, but couldn't grab a winner until there was just 12 minutes left.

Bennett again put the

ball home for the Demons, driving into the net after a Damien Brown knock-down.

PARRAMATTA Eagles were the top scorers in Round 9 action on the weekend, putting six past the Sutherland Sharks.

Adam Anderson netted twice for the Eagles.

AT THE Serbian Centre Colin Luff scored four as Bonnyrigg White Eagles helped themselves to a 5-1 rout over Leichhardt Tigers.

The Tigers cause wasn't helped with Hassan Kdouh being sent off before half time, and their only goal was scored in the last minute through Vince Savocca.

Robert Gomez scored Bonnyrigg's other goal.

Canterbury Marrickville and Ryde City fought out a tight 0-0 draw at Henson Park in miserable conditions.

Fairfield Bulls continue to march on with a 4-1 victory over the Central Coast, Mark Hoenselaars grabbing a hat-trick.

Nathan Byrn made it six for the season with his team's only goal.

The only Round 9 game that fell to the weather was that between Eastern Suburbs and Macarthur Rams, due to be played at David Phillips Field.



Blacktown City Demon Damian Brown

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 11

Saturday 10 April

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Canterbury Marrickville
Serbian Centre, 3:00pm
Fairfield Bulls v Leichhardt Tigers
Nineveh Field, 7:00pm
Macarthur Rams v Sutherland Sharks
Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Sunday 11 April

Bankstown City Lions v Ryde City
Jensen Park, 3:00pm
Blacktown City Demons v Parramatta Eagles
Gabbie Stadium, 3:00pm
Eastern Suburbs v Central Coast
Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

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(75c per min - IDS. Higher rates applies from mobile and public phones)

LATE EXTRA

Bosnich Holds Fire

ASTON Villa's Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has insisted he will not make any decision on his future until the end of the season.

Bosnich is concentrating on making sure his own form is right and helping Villa out of its current slump in the final seven games of the English Premier League campaign before reaching any conclusions.

But the Australian international, who will become a free agent under the Bosman Ruling, claimed: "The last thing I want to do is leave Aston Villa in the lurch."

Bosnich said: "Talks have continued all year and because I know eve-

ryone so well, the chairman, secretary, financial director and especially the manager, there's not a problem.

"That's the easy thing to sort out but we've all agreed we've got to concentrate on the last seven games - and at the end of the seven games we'll sit down and talk again.

"When I sit down at the end of the season I will take everything into consideration.

"One thing I must say is that I will never forget Aston Villa and I'll always remember they gave me my chance in England in terms of first team football.

"I get asked things like 'will I be leaving Villa in



a hole if I go?" and that like everything will be considered.

"The last thing I want to do is leave Villa in the lurch in any type of way.

"I will take whether or not we are in Europe into consideration.

"Of course there is a chance that I could still be here.

"But at the moment I'm not thinking about any-

thing but Leicester on Tuesday.

"It really is dangerous to get involved in thinking of the future now because your form can slip and first and foremost I want Villa to start winning and myself to be doing the business.

"At the end of the day the club is bigger than any one person - me, the manager, anybody."

TARINGA HIT BACK TO STAY IN TOUCH

by Paul Harley

TARINGA Rovers had to fight back from a 1-2 half time deficit to register a 4-2 victory over a stubborn Mt. Gravatt outfit on Saturday afternoon.

The Queensland Premier League match got off to a slow start, the first serious attempt on goal coming after 13 minutes.

Taringa's Steve Dawe drove a low free kick across goal, and Richie Hilli's flick was a couple of feet too high.

Two minutes later, the home side took the lead.

Former Brisbane Striker, Andrew Packer, fired in a 25-yard free kick which beat goalkeeper Mark Bland, but crashed off the crossbar.

In the ensuing scramble, the ball broke to Scott Robinson, who easily scored from only a couple of yards out.

Mt. Gravatt responded immediately, Roy Rob breaking down the right, but Nigel McLure couldn't quite get on the end of his cross with an attempted flying header.

A few minutes later, Danny Cox floated a free kick into the home goal area, which was well held

**TARINGA ROVERS 4
MT GRAVATT 2**
Venue: Jack Speare Park

Taringa: B. Dickens, Molenda, (G. Dickens), Theochari, Lowndes, Day, Packer, Bland, Wood, (Kuijer), Dawe, Hilli, (Poggi), Robinson
Mt. Gravatt: Bland, Galloway, Oberle, Cox, (Garwood-Gowers), Gnech, Pilic, (Watson), Gosney, (Gordon), Rob, Collins, McLure, Grundy
Ref: John Peacock
Assistants: Doug Prentice, Adam Bedi

by goalkeeper Brett Dickens under pressure.

The visitor's Darryl Grundy picked up the first yellow card of the game, presumably for dissent, after 22 minutes.

Within a minute, the home side squandered two good chances to increase their lead.

An inswinging cross from Dawe found Robinson, but his effort was blocked by Bland.

Then Hilli sent Wood clear down the left, and his cross flew across the face of goal, narrowly evading Robinson.

Dawe met it and fired it back across, but again found no takers.

Taringa were to regret these misses when Mt. Gravatt turned the game around in the last ten minutes of the half.

Much against the run of play, they equalised in the 36th minute.

Kieran Galloway

robbed Hilli in midfield, strode forward and sent a dangerous through ball into the penalty area.

With the Rovers defence looking for offside, Grundy dashed between two defenders and turned the ball beyond an exposed Dickens from six yards.

Grundy proceeded to run the show for the remainder of the half.

A clever pass inside the full back sent Calvin Gnech clear, but he sliced his left foot shot well wide.

Then a powerful strike from 15 yards had

Dickens diving to his left to concede a corner.

It was played short, and Grundy sent over a pinpoint cross for the unmarked Simon Pilic to convert from close range, Dickens left unprotected once more. With no time for Taringa to respond, Mt. Gravatt went into the

break with an unlikely 2-1 lead.

Taringa coach John Ogden was clearly not a happy man, and could be heard berating his charges in the dressing sheds during the break.

This obviously had some effect, Rovers quickly off the blocks from the re-start in search of an equaliser.

Dawe was first to threaten, only two minutes in, cutting in from the right to send in a powerful left foot 20 yarder, well saved by Bland diving low to his left.

A curling Packer free kick from similar distance on the other side was too close to the keeper and easily held.

With 50 minutes gone, Mt. Gravatt threatened to increase their lead when Grundy released Gnech down the left.

His cross evaded Grundy, but was met perfectly by Craig Collins, a thundering half volley just tipped over by Dickens.

However, that was the last of the visitors in attack, Taringa completely dominating the rest of the game.

McLure fell foul of referee John Peacock after a scything tackle on Wood, and could have no complaints about the yellow card being shown.

Bland then kept his side in front twice in quick succession, first reacting instinctively to



beat out Hilli's first time effort from Packer's cross.

Seconds later, he flung himself to his left to palm Dawe's fierce long-range effort around the post.

Mt. Gravatt's Robin Gosney was helped from the field, blood pouring from a head wound, to be replaced by Liam Gordon.

The home side's efforts paid off after 62 minutes, with an equaliser that bore a strong resemblance to Mt. Gravatt's opener.

Packer pinched the ball in midfield, galloped down the right flank, and whipped the ball across the face of goal. It was Bland's turn to be left exposed, as Hilli raced onto the ball and calmly stroked it past him from six yards.

Cox made it three yellow cards for the visitors, and it could easily have been red,

following a wild lunge which brought Packer crashing to the ground with the ball long gone.

The resultant free kick was headed back across goal by Jamie Lowndes to leave Robinson with the simple task of nodding the ball past the helpless Bland from point blank range.

Seconds later, and the points were secure for Taringa.

Robinson raced down the left wing almost to the goal line to send over what was intended as a cross, but the ball sailed over a bemused Bland at his near post to bounce off the far post into the net.

Nobody was more surprised than the scorer at the outcome.

That finished the game as a contest, Mt. Gravatt having nothing left in the tank to attempt a fightback.

Rovers' Chris Day picked up the fourth yellow card of the game for a hefty challenge on Collins, and Bland excelled himself with a flying leap to turn away a close range header from substitute Jason Poggi.

Both sides then seemed to be seeing out time, possibly with one eye on the second half of the Easter schedule on Monday.

So a well deserved victory for Taringa, to maintain the pressure on the top two, and see them in confident mood for Monday's visit to face an inconsistent Gold Coast City.

Mt. Gravatt won't be relishing the second part of a difficult double, at home to Rochedale Rovers, and will have to give their keeper more back up if they want to shut out the League's most potent attack.

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Lights go out in Ibadan World Youth Cup scare

Soccer's world youth championship suffered its first organisational hiccup on Sunday when a floodlight failure, blamed by an official on sabotage, interrupted the game between Mexico

and Ireland. The group C match, won 1-0 by Mexico, was delayed for 12 minutes when the lights went out after an hour's action. Gbenga Giwa, the local media officer, said: "We think it was sabo-

tage and we are investigating the matter."

The Nigerian organisers are sensitive about widespread doubts about the country's ability to stage the 24-team tournament efficiently

and are desperate to avoid similar mishaps.

The country was due to host the tournament in 1995 but it was switched to Qatar because of health and security concerns.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP

BULLEEN and Carlton played a one-all draw at the Veneto Club on Thursday to open Round 27 in the Southern Division.

After a tight and scoreless first half, Isayin Erdogan took advantage of a defensive error to open the scoring for Carlton in 52 minutes with a shot under keeper Sasha Bul-

lut.

Robert Bresciano made the break which led to Bulleen's equaliser from Robert Ardesi in 82 minutes.

In the only other match played, Gippsland Falcons beat the Melbourne Knights by two goals to nil at Mobil Park on Saturday.

The Falcons got away

to a blistering start with a goal to Alex Halikias in just over a minute.

Michael Katz scored the second in 25 minutes and despite lots of pressure by both sides that is how it stayed till the end.

The scheduled match from Round 25 between South Melbourne and the VIS arranged for Wednesday had to be

postponed, as was the Round 27 game involving the VIS and Albury Wodonga, adding to the backlog of VIS fixtures which will have to be caught up when the Institute returns from its Malaysian tour.

IN THE table top battle in the Northern Division Sydney Olympic and the AIS played a classic three-all draw at Belmore on Sunday.

No one could complain about the quality of this match and the excitement which kept both sets of fans on the edge of their seats.

For Olympic, Leo Carle, Adrian Cervinski and Lee Miot were the scorers, while Kevo Gulesserian got a double for the AIS and Joshua Kennedy scored the other goal.

The result leaves the AIS four points clear at the top, but Olympic has a game in hand.

NSW Institute of Sport had a great two-one win away to Marconi Fairfield on Saturday.

Mark Hagger put Marconi in front after nine minutes, turning away from defender and firing a shot under Jeff van Stratten.

Within a minute Simon Catanzaro had produced

a carbon copy to equalise, winning the ball in the Marconi penalty area before finishing smartly.

Marconi had a player sent off in the second half, and when Anthony Doumanis of the Institute was brought down in the box after 74 minutes, he got up to take the penalty kick and score the winner.

Northern Spirit beat its Colts team by three goals to one.

Clint Mayberry after 4 minutes, Daniel Watkins



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Forthcoming matches

Southern Division
Round 28

Saturday 10 April 1999

Albury Wodonga v South Melbourne, (Myrtleford, 6 pm)

Sunday 11 April 1999

Carlton v Gippsland Falcons, (Olympic Park, 4.30 pm)

Melbourne Knights v Bye

Wednesday 21 April 1999

Bulleen Inter v VIS, (Veneto Park, 7 pm)

Northern Division

Wednesday 7 April 1999

Round 27

Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong Wolves, (Breakers Stadium, 5.15 pm)

Round 29

Sydney United Colts v NSWIS, (Valentine Park, 7 pm)

Round 28

Saturday 10 April 1999

Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves Colts, (Cromer Park, 3.30)

QAS v Northern Spirit Colts, (Suncorp Stadium, 4.30)

AIS v Sydney United Colts, (AIS Soccer Field, 7.00)

Sydney United v Sydney Olympic Academy, (Edensor Park, 3.00)

NSWIS v Sydney Olympic, (Valentine Park, 6.00)

Sunday 11 April 1999

Wollongong Wolves v Marconi Fairfield, (Brandon Park, 4 pm)

Marconi Fairfield Colts v Newcastle Breakers, (Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)

ACTAS v Bye

Fiorese setting new goals for champions

by Nick Guoth

IN 1998 Belconnen United finished the ACT competition season with everything. Their first grade team won the Federation Cup, the Championship and the Final Four series. The Under 23s and the Under 19s also won their fair share of trophies. What's left for the club, but more importantly, can they do a repeat? Belconnen coach Lino Fiorese gives his views on what is happening at the club to *Inside Soccer* readers.

IS: What pressure is there to repeat the performance of last year?

LF: There are no demands put on me to win games, but you get appointed and re-appointed to win trophies and be successful.

This year we have brought four players into our starting line up from our very successful Under 23 team to take positions left by first grade players leaving the club.

This in itself is a tough process to make sure these players can produce what others managed before.

We have been very



Belconnen coach Lino Fiorese

successful previously because the squad changed very little where as this year half of our entire squad are new to senior football and this will be a great challenge for the team and coaching staff.

IS: What are the overall

expectations of the Belconnen United SC for this season?

LF: The 'clubs' expectations for this season is to be successful.

My expectations are to take one game, at a time and work hard and smart for that win.

This will in turn get the

team closer to small goals set and finally through hard work and making the right choices put the team in a position where a trophy can be won.

IS: You have lost a few players, Valerio Galeotti and Geoff Howarth to name two. How have you compensated?

LF: The four senior players that left have given the young boys a chance to show their wares and accept the challenge in playing first grade for the club.

These young players have potential to not only cement a first team place but maybe be the difference between winning and losing games.

This is where it is very important that our development program helps the players develop skills, read the game, being comfortable on the ball, so eventually and hopefully as the players come through the system they are capable of playing first grade football regularly.

IS: As the coach, how do you see your team going this year and what are the dangers to look out for?

LF: I see Belconnen United being competitive and developing into a strong team as the season progresses.

There is no room to be complacent as there are players on the fringes who want a chance to play first grade football.

All other squads have picked up first grade players and have stronger squads than last year, whereas Belconnen United have developed players to take up these positions.

Every side is always tough to beat especially

when they always put a little extra in when they play Belconnen United.

This season is going to be a very competitive season, as I see every squad is going to be very close to one another and capable of winning on the day.

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'We'll win this league' says Alston after shock loss

by Bruce Campbell

"WE'LL still win this league," said a confident Adrian Alston after seeing his Port Kembla side go down 2-1 to Northern United in the opening round of the 1999 Illawarra Credit Union Premier League.

"Of course, I'm not happy about losing, no-one ever is, but I'm not happy about giving away two daft goals either."

"I told the players to settle down and to play to their best because we will win this league, I am confident of that."

Port started the match at their Primbee ground as raging hot favourites.

A set-back in the Corrimal Cup final two weeks before didn't disguise the fact that this side was still brimful of talent with coach Alston also pointing to the fact that he still had six players to come back into first team contention.

"I'm not happy about the refereeing either," he added. "I know that both sides have to play the same game but it is hard when there is just so much inconsistency in a match."

Illawarra referees have come in for torrid criticism lately, with the mix-ups when two separate officials failed to count the amount of shots

taken in penalty shoot outs making them fair game for every shot.

Alston, however, was taking no cheap ones.

In this game players were booked for tackling from behind while others weren't, physical challenges went unchecked and often the man in charge struggled to keep up with play.

At half time it looked as if the Zebras would continue in the fashion that they ended last season.

Nick Polemenakos smacked a vicious shot passed keeper Adrian Thompson and but for some excellent saves from the United keeper

his side could have gone in a lot worse than 1-0 down.

But the second half was barely four minutes old when Gavin O'Brien equalised.

Ian Pollari failed to clear his lines sending an innocuous ball to the feet of O'Brien who gratefully stroked it away past a stranded Ben Harris in the Port goal. O'Brien, Michael Gardiner and Jamie Closs started to combine well for United as the Corrimal side started to believe in themselves.

A series of quick ground passes had a flat footed Port defence in all sorts of bother over the next fifteen to twenty minutes.

Port Kembla had all but given up when Frank Barila, Mineo

Bonetig and Matt Callahan started to combine in some very nice movements. One move in particular involving Barila and Bonetig saw the former Wolves player's shot go agonisingly wide.

But just when they looked capable of going in front, a Giacomo Morlando blunder after 72 minutes saw Northern United go one up instead.

O'Neill, who looked nippy and was always troubling the slower Port defenders, nipped in to take advantage of Morlando's fluff to slip the ball past Harris.

Just two minutes later O'Neill was in the danger zone again and almost got between a Morlando back header and the keeper. The game, which was never a classic, nearly sprang to life when substitute John Carusi lofted a superb thirty yard pass to Bonetig who had ghosted to the right edge of the box.

Bonetig's first time cross was just sniffed away by the alert Thompson with Callahan



PORT KEMBLA: B Harris, P Robaard (D Cario), I Pollari (J Carusi), R Cazzoli, G Morlando, B Glancy, N Polimenakos, A O'Brien, M Bonetig, F Barila, M Callahan (K Duncan). Coach: A Alston
NORTHERN UNITED: A Thompson, D Such, T Biro, S Glass, R Hill, G Bronwlee (J Skali), G O'Brien, D Gardiner, M Gardiner, J Closs (M Bailey), P O'Neill. Coach: P Carr

looking set to mark his debut with a goal. The red haired signing from Helensburgh Thistle had a busy game and will be a good acquisition to the Port squad.

He came off shortly after this move but the substitution was more of a precaution because of a recent knee injury. For most of the game he was probably Port's best player and there are signs that he will combine well with Bonetig with more match play.

Kieran Duncan played out the last ten minutes and again his work-rate could have been well used throughout the game.

He beavered away and his industry presented the League Premiers with a couple of half chances in the dying stages but the elusive equaliser was never going to come.

In the end Northern United could have got a third but the final header of the match went straight to the arms of a

relieved Harris.

The scenes in the visitors' dressing room after the match said it all; this was the game the plucky side from up the freeway never expected to win.

To them it was almost like a Grand Final bonus and there was little doubt for the disappointing crowd of 200 that the boys from Corrimal would be unwrapping their Easter Eggs with more than a delicate touch in the morning.

PORT KEMBLA 1 (Polimenakos)
NORTHERN UNITED 2 (O'Brien, O'Neill)
Venue: Primbee Park
Man of the Match: Adrian Thompson NORTHERN UNITED



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Saturday 10 April

Northern United v Kemblawarra

Memorial Park

Bulli v Port Kembla

Balls Paddock

Shoalhaven City v Fernhill

Ison Park

Lysaghts v Wollongong Olympic

Figtree Recreation Ground

Sunday 11 April

Coniston Lions v Cringila Lions

JJ Kelly Park

Bye: Woonona

MATCH OF
THE
ROUND

Two players sent off

IN OTHER Illawarra action newcomers Woonona took a surprise 35th minute lead when Blake Montgomery scored at Ocean Park on Friday against Lysaghts.

However, Montgomery was sent off in the second

half and two goals from David Thompson and one from substitute Andrew Harrower sealed a 3-1 win.

A crowd in excess of 1,500 saw Kemblawarra open its new stadium.

But the party looked to

go wrong when Coniston Lions went to a 2-0 lead with new signing Zye Youman netting both goals. Kemblawarra fought back with veteran striker Joe Coelho getting two to see his side share the points.

Olympic had Terry Peros sent off but still managed to cruise to a 3-1 win against Shoalhaven City at Brandon Park. Scorers were Declan Dowd (2), Steve Krishna for Olympic and Mark Smith for City.

Bobby Mac is back with Springvale

by Bruce Campbell

THERE IS one sure thing about coaching in Australian soccer – there is no sure thing.

Ask Bobby McLachlan.

He was the man who put the wings onto the then Morwell Falcons, taking the little club from the Latrobe Valley into the national league big time.

Time didn't treat him fairly and despite bringing big names to the homely club like John Markovski, Warren Spink and Ernie Tapai he eventually resigned when the welcome mat was clearly being stored somewhere else.

Since then he has ducked along in the Victorian State League and keeping himself busy doing coaching work for the Victorian Soccer Federation as well as staff coaching with the national teams set-up.

A phone call last week changed all that and now Bobby Mac is back.

He has answered the call from Springvale White Eagles in what may yet go down in



history as the most difficult season of all time.

Uni aiming to be difficult to beat

by Nick Guoth

IN 1998 THE University of Canberra were fighting for the wooden spoon of the ACT Premier League Division 1 with Queanbeyan City and Canberra City.

They lost.

When Burns Club, who were given the title of winners of Division 2, decided to promote to the top flight, it meant that University had to take the drop.

Then just before nominations were due, one of Canberra's most famous clubs, Canberra City, pulled the plug on their Premier League teams and decided to only play in the ACT State League.

This left a hole in the Division 1 to be filled.

University said yes and came back to fight another year.

But there will be one difference from the past; this time they're here to stay.

Two months before the Federation Cup competition kicked off, the club approached Rod Lynes to take over as head coach and together with major moves at the youth level the outlook is now very

positive.

Rod, himself has extensive experience in the local leagues having represented the ACT in his younger years and lately first as Youth Coach at Canberra City and then for two seasons as Assistant Coach.

To Lynes, the development on the park means the instigation of a system whereby all three teams (1st, U23 and U19) all play the same way and all train together.

"This will mean that players stepping up to the higher grade will know what is expected of them," he says.

Lynes will be ably assisted by youth team coach Paul Davidson and goalkeeper coach Martyn Smith.

"The three coaches will work with all the players and the end result is one squad," he adds.

"As the season proper is yet to begin this development is in its infancy, yet we are optimistic that it will be successful."

The committee and the others involved in the administration have provided a club that will soon be the envy of others around the ACT.

Even with the late notice of re-admission to the Division 1 competition, the transition was as smooth as if nothing had to be done.

It is not just the senior administration of this club that is so strong, but the ties it has developed with one of Canberra's leading junior clubs, Woden Valley, that make it a club for the future.

Earlier this year the ground work done by Gordon Carmichael years back was solidified through a two year sponsorship deal with the Hellenic Club of Canberra.

Then followed the appointment of Tony Olivera as Coaching and Development Manager and Barry Rumble as Club Trainer, both being heavily involved with the University club.

During the last summer the WVSC ran a development programme and the results from this have shown up in the most important area.

The number of teams that will compete in the first division of each age group has increased from two to five.

Most importantly, the link will see young play-

ers from the junior levels of Under 15 and Under 17 progress to the University's Under 19 team and then to the higher grades.

Still, whilst you have a solid junior base, there is a need to keep the club flourishing at the highest level.

A few ex-players from Canberra City have joined and a couple of former University players have returned to the club also.

However, the bulk of the squad are players who were at the club last year.

Rod Lynes states: "We have basically a young side in their late teens and early twenties, with a few more experienced players available."

"It is a good mix and I am pleased with the commitment that the players have displayed so far."

How does Rod see the 1999 season for the University side?

"I would like us to be a well organised and well disciplined side with players who are aware of their individual and collective responsibilities - a side which other teams will find difficult to beat."

The reason is obvious, with four clubs dropping down to first division football come August.

And the chances are that, unless things have somehow changed dramatically in the state that Queenslanders call Mexico, there will be at least four coaching casualties also come the end of the season.

So how does McLachlan, who has been around the traps for so long now he is almost an institution, fancy his chances?

"It will be tough," he

says pragmatically.

"With four going down a lot could happen."

"We'll just have to wait and see."

In the past he has earned a reputation as a bit of a magician, a coach who can pull the odd match winning player out of obscurity.

He did it at Morwell where maybe his major coup was the signing, or should that be finding, of Sonny Sevin.

After the player was banned for falsifying his age documents while attending an AIS

scholarship McLachlan kept tabs on him long enough to beat everyone else for his signature well before the ban was lifted.

So is there another Sonny Sevin, another surprise package, in the pipeline at Springvale?

"We'll have to wait and see," laughs McLachlan.

One thing is for sure, he hasn't gone to Springvale White Eagles to willingly put his name on the merry-go-round again.

We'll all be waiting to see just what, and who, he comes up with.

Indoor training developing skill levels

WHILE the winter months reflect a quieter period for Indoor Soccer there is still lots happening around the various centres.

More and more clubs are using Indoor Soccer as part of their training schedules, particularly junior teams who like to play the indoor game to improve their ball skills.

Most Indoor Soccer Centres also have court time available that can be used for training, either ball skills or game situations - ideal also for getting away from the colder winter weather.

South American players don't need to be convinced of the help given in developing ball skills by Indoor Soccer.

In those countries most professional players have been brought up on the indoor game in some shape or form.

And contrary to popular belief severe injuries are very rare - there were only 24 insurance claims with the Indoor Soccer (Five A Side) Association of NSW during the 1997-98 season.

Many clubs are now splitting their junior teams into two squads of 12 - 16 players and entering them as separate teams in Indoor Soccer competitions in their off-season.

This keeps the players interested, doesn't take up too much time (only half an hour per team per week) and the improve-

ment in the players' ball skills as a result is amazing.

The Coerver Coaching Scheme operating out of the NSW Soccer Federation use Indoor Soccer as part of their elite training schedule and have entered two junior teams in the Indoor Soccer competition at Glenwood.

Rule books, information booklets, schools competition or other information is available by contacting the Australian Indoor Soccer (Five A Side) Association Inc. at PO Box 6024, Blacktown Business Centre, NSW 2148, e-mail at socnsw@ozemail.com.au or phoning the secretary on (02) 9629 1800.



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Hastie solo earns Falcons point against high flying Spirit

MODEST Gippsland Falcons displayed a cohesive team work on Saturday to hold premiership aspirants Northern Spirits to a 1-1 draw in their NSL match at Mobil Park.

Spirit player/coach Graham Arnold opened the scoring just before halftime, but Gippsland drew level midway through the second half with a Will Hastie strike.

A victory would have cemented the Spirits a place in the Top Six.

Robbie Slater and Arnold showed some magic for the visitors early in the game.

At the 40th minute, Slater almost took on the entire Falcons defence and connected with

Luke Casserly whose powerful shot was well taken by Gippsland keeper Bojo Jevjedic.

Two minutes later a counter-attack move by the Spirit caught the Falcons defence by surprise with Slater setting up Arnold, who had run the whole field from the back, to nail the ball into the net.

Hastie scored midway the second half after a brilliant solo run.

The Falcons should have made it two in the final minutes when Scottish newcomer Sandy Robertson broke through the visitor's defence and fired a powerful shot, but Spirit keeper Paul Henderson magnificently flipped the ball over the

bar.

Northern Spirits player coach Arnold said he was reasonably happy with the result as Gippsland was a hard place to get a victory.

"Nevertheless after being one-nil up and playing so well it is disappointing," he said.

Gippsland coach Stuart Munro was delighted with his team's performance.

"It is two weeks in a row now that they put a great effort against top teams," he said.

"It is great to see that we are playing out the season well.

"It was a good fighting effort against a team of so called quality players."



Willie Hastie (right) in a relaxed mood with former Falcons team-mate Lachlan Armstrong. A brilliant solo run by the midfielder earned Gippsland Falcons a good point.

**GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1 (Hastie)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Arnold)
Venue: Mobil Park
Man of the Match: Robbie Slater SPRT**

THE FUTURE
JUST A KICK AWAY

RAINBOW
RANGE:
AVAILABLE
IN SEVEN
DIFFERENT
COLOURWAYS.

asics

Subs inspire comeback time for South

by Alan Clark

SOUTH Melbourne regained outright league leadership and held its unbeaten home record this season after defeating Perth Glory 2-1 in their deferred Round 23 game on Wednesday 31 March.

The win required South to come from behind, as the season's largest crowd at Bob Jane was stunned into silence such that you could hear the sun's reflection from the rising full moon following Alistair Edwards' 36th minute opener for Perth.

Last time these two sides met at Bob Jane, Perth's Vas Kalogeracos was introduced as a late substitute and then netted three times to claw back a 0-3 deficit to earn Glory a 3-3 draw.

This time however, it was to be the introduction of a South pair - John Anastasiadis and George Goutzioulis - which was to be the catalyst for a change to the game's destiny.

Shortly after they stepped onto the park as a pair in the 70th minute as substitutes for Michael Curcija and Steve Panopoulos, they had combined for the leveller.

Their presence had unsettled Glory's defence to the extent that South's very next foray after equalising concluded with Vaughan Coveny grabbing the winner that all but confirmed South's tenure of a vital top two position and the prize of a Finals' double chance.

The partisan home support, which had been anxious at the potential for disaster had South lost, erupted into joyous celebration which lasted beyond the final whistle.

But this was the end of a story which should be started as most do, with the outcome uncertain.

The first thing that was uncertain was the spectator turnout.

It had been a cold and wet period leading up to the mid-week fixture, with the Easter break and school holidays impending.

The South support has a habit of making its entrance at the last minute, and so fifteen minutes before the scheduled start there is always little clue as to the eventual attendance.

But pour through the turnstiles they did - in season's record numbers for this highly anticipated show-down.

What was in prospect was a clash between two teams that had built their reputations on their respective prolific attacks and which wore down their oppositions by outscoring, rather than out-defending them.

Added to this contest was the eagerly awaited return of once South favourite Con Boutsianis, now playing for Perth.

His last appearance in a

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Anastasiadis, Coveny)
PERTH GLORY 1 (Edwards)
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Man of the Match: Paul Trimboli SMEL**

South shirt was in the winning Grand Final game last year in which he scored the goal that provided the silverware, but he was gone before the season had re-started.

South's coach Ange Postecoglou's tactical advice to his side on handling Boutsianis was "Don't give away any free-kicks in our half," such was his aptitude - well known to ex team-mate and fan alike.

But Boutsianis was not to have a disproportionately influential effect on the game, and was substituted midway through the second period, having exhausted himself playing in a central midfield role not previously his at Bob Jane.

For those familiar with South's playing style for the last several seasons, something odd was apparent during the first half.

South's normal tactics involve retaining possession, playing the short pass, and allowing the ball to make an indirect path to the scoring zone, drawing out the opponent's defensive shield.

Against Perth, South was playing long through balls.

This was a result of player anxiousness and Perth's ability to close down space, according to Postecoglou.

"I thought Perth played very well in the first half - hit us on the counter-attack," he said.

"We struggled to cope with that."

"We seemed to be second best with everything."

"They made it very hard for us to find space: the only space we could find was behind their back four and (we) got sucked in, playing balls into those areas (which is) foreign to our game."

South's unusual new style resulted in the ball being delivered quickly to the forward line, but at a pace and into areas where the supporting links could not quickly arrive.

As a consequence, although it seemed South was frequently in positions of potential, the threat was capably met by Perth's competent defence bolstered by the impressive Italian import Gianfranco Circati, and counter-attacks quickly ensued.

Scott Miller and Kalogeracos had separate attempts worthy of a goal by midway through the half.

Paul Trimboli, Curcija, and Panopoulos had gone close for South.

Glory had spotted a defensive mis-match down its attacking right side and set out to exploit it.

From one such exploration came Glory's crowd-silencing 26th minute goal.

After a number of false but encouraging starts, Glory ram-paged once again up the right.

Robert Trajkovski had moved onto a long ball sent forward by Miller and crossed to Alistair Edwards at the near post whose flicked shot sped past Michael Petkovic.

The goal seemed to spur South to more frequently adopting their long ball play, despite the best endeavours of David Clarkson, Panopoulos, and Trimboli to get the engine-room active again.

Perth almost stole a second after Kalogeracos attempted a lob of Petkovic which just cleared the bar.

Petkovic was required to race from his line following uncharacteristic defensive inattention from Goran Lozanovski.

But Glory players tired after their first-half efforts.

Last Sunday's game in 30 degree Perth heat combined with the long trip east to their disadvantage.

South also re-engineered their play to a more familiar style, and began to take the initiative.

"In the first half we tried to play too many long balls - doing things that we don't usually do," said Postecoglou.

"I told them at half-time to settle down and play our game which is to keep possession of the ball and wait for the right opportunity."

"We did that a lot better in the second half."

The possession game takes its toll on players' physical and mental abilities, and in the 70th minute it required the introduction of Anastasiadis and Goutzioulis to replace the exhausted Curcija and Panopoulos.

Anastasiadis had not played for South for a month, but his reputation as a goalscorer and chance-maker is soundly based.

The pay-off was instant for South and its chances of retaining the national championship.

A mere six minutes had passed before Goutzioulis found himself in space and played a ball to Anastasiadis who shrugged off the attentions of Paul Strudwick, firing in the equaliser.

From the ensuing kick-off, the ball was turned over and ended up with Trimboli, this time deciding to strike himself from just outside the area.

The ball crashed off the cross-bar back into play to Clarkson who found Liparoti at the far post.

Liparoti's header was across the face of goal and Coveny

bravely headed in from close-in low down.

"That gives us a five point break on (Perth in third place) with three games to go," said Postecoglou.

"It means if we win one game and get a draw we sew up a top-two spot which is so important."

"That gives us the confidence to go on with the next three games and try to win top spot, which has always been our aim."

Glory coach Bernd Stange was not unduly concerned at the loss: "We played a good first half."

"We were well organised and played good counter attacks."

"But in the second half we were not fit enough for such a (fast moving) game."

"A lot of players are not able to play Sunday/Wednesday."

"I'm not disappointed - I'm very relaxed because Perth Glory is a young club - we are three years old - and I think we are in the Finals this year which is a big, big success."

"We have a (gap) to South Melbourne and Sydney



Vaughan Coveny: the prolific scoring Kiwi international was on the sheet again as the Blues came back to snatch a late winner at Bob Jane Stadium

United, but maybe we are able to close it next year."

A meeting of these two sides in a Grand Final match-up

with both sides at their strongest would be a contest to be savoured.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



Round 28: 9/10 April

Friday 09 April

Northern Spirit v Adelaide Sharks
North Sydney Oval 7.30pm

Saturday 10 April

Brisbane Strikers v Gippsland Falcons
Suncorp Stadium 7.00pm

Sunday 11 April

Carlton v Perth Glory
Olympic Park 6.00pm
Wollongong Wolves v Marconi Fairfield
Brandon Park 6.30pm
Adelaide City v Newcastle Breakers
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm
Sydney United v South Melbourne
Edensor Park 5.00pm
Melbourne Knights v Sydney Olympic
Knights Stadium 3.00pm

Bye: Canberra Cosmos

NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

Stallions still alive

By Anthony Raineri

Marconi-Fairfield's belated surge into the national soccer league Top Six continued on Saturday night with a 2-0 defeat of Melbourne Knights at Marconi Stadium.

The home team, fielding an unchanged line-up for the first time since round two, scored both goals in the second half after an even opening 45 minutes.

Veteran striker Francis Awaritefe broke the deadlock in the 70th minute when he poked home a Brad Maloney corner, which had been back-headed into the penalty box by team-mate Mark

Babic.

It was Awaritefe's ninth goal of the season and 111th of his career.

The hard-working Kris Trajanovski scored the second goal for Marconi 12 minutes later when he broke away from the Knights' defence and chipped keeper Martin John, who had rushed off his line.

A scoreless first half belied the number of chances both teams had to surge ahead.

The Knights hit the post twice in 11 minutes.

In the 24th minute, Ivan Kelic outjumped his marker Babic and the header bounced over keeper Ante Covic and against the left post.

Later, Tom Pondeljak latched onto a loose ball in Marconi's penalty box.

The 23-year-old striker hammered a volley which crashed into the right post after deflecting past Marconi defender Buddy Farah. Farah then cleared the rebound as Pondeljak charged in on the follow-through.

Marconi dominated territorially especially down the right flank, where Awaritefe and Trajanovski created all sorts of problems for the Knights' defence.

Four minutes from the break, Gibson launched a rocket from near the right sideline requiring John to acrobatically tip the ball over the bar.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2 (Awaritefe, Trajanovski)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Man of the Match: Kris Trajanovski MARC



Kris Trajanovski: the Soccerroo's hard working display earned him a goal and man of the match – and kept his team in the race for the Top Six

Shark Alex toe pokes City into finals despair

A LATE solo goal by striker Alex Duric marred Adelaide City's smooth progress to a tenth successive finals campaign falling to the Adelaide Sharks 1-0 in their national soccer league derby at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

Duric ran into the City penalty area and stabbed a shot with the front of his left foot which beat Soccerroo goalkeeper Jason Petkovic off the underside of the crossbar in the 82nd minute.

The goal gave the Sharks only their second win in the last 15 games, and came as a relief to a harrowing period for players and supporters – unsure if the club will survive into next season following the appointment of an administrator to oversee its finances.

It was also a payback for the record 5-0 thrashing at City's hands in the first derby

encounter this season.

Duric was a constant threat to City's vaunted defence full of national experience and after some misses nailed City with his fifth goal of the season.

The tall striker had almost run himself into a standstill after a torrid first hour.

He was particularly menacing in the first half when he seemed to pop up everywhere and was clearly the difference between the two sides.

His late winner, coming from his now customary white boots, made it a sour result for Soccerroo captain Alex Tobin who played his 400th national league game for City.

City started the more assured but could only produce an acrobatic header by striker Damian Mori on target in the 11th minute before the Sharks took charge.

Teenage striker Elias Demourtzidis opened up the City defence on the left in the 21st minute and his cross set up shooting chances for Joel Porter and Duric but the latter's shot was blocked by City's Dongi Ki Kim.

Corey Artone and Richie Alagich started to run the City midfield ragged, opening up spaces for Duric coming from deep.

Artone electrified the crowd with a spectacular volley from 25 metres in the 45th minute which cleared the crossbar.

City's more desperate attempts in the latter stages couldn't break down the Sharks' defence and coach Zoran Matic threw Dino Menillo on for the last 15 minutes in place of Veart.

It was only City's second loss in Adelaide this season after it was beaten by Perth in the opening round.

Sharks coach Adrian Santrac was delighted with his players and the result.

"Any victory against City is satisfying, but the manner it was achieved in was even

better," he said.

"It continues the club's improvement in recent weeks. "Our players stepped up a notch in maturity tonight."

Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic described the loss as embarrassing.

"We never showed any emotion or reaction during the match and there are no excuses," he said.

"These players and myself are in danger of being the first City team to miss out on the finals in ten seasons."

Despite the sign at the half-way marked which advertised the business empire of Sharks major shareholder Con Makris the finger of doom still hangs over the troubled Sharks.

The win, particularly, an all-too rare derby one at that, may indeed be cause for celebration.

But it might just be short-lived celebrations with the chances of Adelaide Sharks NSL survival needing a lot more than a toe poke from the superb Alex Duric.

Time will tell, even if City do miss out on the six.



ADELAIDE SHARKS 1 (Duric)
ADELAIDE CITY 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Alex Duric ADSh

Walking wounded keep Olympic's hopes alive

By Ted Simmons

UNFIT substitute Nick Carle wrong-footed the Carlton defence to sneak home the winner in Sydney Olympic's 3-2 national soccer league victory at Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday night.

The youth of teenager Carle, who returned last week after a three and a half months absence, and the experience of veteran Chris Kalantzis, who scored a match double, kept Olympic in the battle for the Ericsson Cup playoffs.

Kalantzis, called back after five weeks absence through injury and suspension, grabbed a match double with Carle snatching the winner nine minutes from fulltime.

The success pushed Olympic into fourth place with three rounds remain-

ing.

"I chose Nick because he can score goals but he was on the bench because his is not ready yet to play a full game," Olympic coach Branko Culina said.

Carlton was quick to attack from the whistle and its speed on the wet ground presented early problems for Olympic.

The visitors were first to score when a seventh minute corner by Steve Martin was met by David Cervinski with a back header which flew into the net.

Minutes later, Scott Baillie had a corner cleared off the line as Olympic charged back.

The pressure paid off in the 19th minute when Pablo Cardozo played a short corner and his second pass was converted by a diving header

from Kalantzis.

Seven minutes before halftime, Carlton regained the lead when left midfielder Ace Stojevski broke free and his cross found striker Alex Moriera for another successful header.

Olympic bounced back after halftime with a rush and dominated the first 15 minutes.

Scott Thomas, who had been the driving force in the Olympic attack, was again the prime mover to level the score.

Three minutes after play resumed he swung the ball high into the Carlton penalty area where Kalantzis pushed his shot past keeper Dean Anastasiadis.

"We had five kids in the team who were not expected to last 90 minutes but they set up two goals and I was pleased

with that effort, although our defence was disappointing," said Carlton

coach Eddie Krncevic.

Carlton are now expected to start rebuilding

for next season after their current campaign has ended in disappointment.

They play their last home against Perth next Sunday.



Scott Thomas: he was inspirational as Olympic carved out a one goal win against Carlton which keeps them in the hunt for a Top Six playoffs place

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (Kalantzis 2, N Carle)
CARLTON 2 (D Cervinski, Stojevski)
Venue: Belmore Sports Ground
Man of the Match: Scott Thomas SOLY**

Laybutt off as Kossie sees red in South drubbing

by Alan Clark

SOUTH Melbourne met the challenge of Brisbane Strikers - themselves fighting for a Finals position - with a solid 3-0 win at Bob Jane on Sunday.

The visiting Strikers were hampered by a red-card to Steve Laybutt just before half-time following his earning of a second caution - the first for a tackle on Vaughan Coveny, the second on Goran Lozanovski. Lozanovski was to be tightly marked throughout his 63 minutes on the park, but he still managed to mount runs and crosses the Strikers' defence found difficult to deal with.

Strikers had started brightly, as a side with Finals hopes of its own might be expected to do. Andy Harper was making off-the ball movements which stretched the South back-line,

and created space for Chay Hews, Casey Wehrman, and even Chris Zoricich to launch goal-attempts. Hews' 12th minute shot was blocked by a combination of Fausto De Amicis - who had another of his confident displays at the back - and Michael Petkovic, steady in goal throughout the season.

Midway through the half, first South, then Brisbane had their best chances yet to score.

Lozanovski had managed to torment the Strikers' left side and crossed in that curling goal-keeper luring way which has become his trademark.

The ball looped over Clint Bolton to Coveny beyond the far post but the tall Kiwi was blocked by Zoricich and the chance vanished.

Within seconds, it was Brisbane's turn. Harper's cross from the right fell neatly for Stuart McLaren, forcing

Petkovic into a deflecting save. Robert Liparoti was forced to leave the field for lengthy treatment after a clash of heads which caused his left eye to swell before he was assisted off the park.

It was clear he was not fit to return, and George Goutzioulis came on as his replacement. Shortly after, came the seven minutes in which this game's destiny was determined. Coveny was making yet another run into a shooting position when he was fouled by Glenn Gwynne 20 metres out.

This is the range Lozanovski claims, and with the departure of Con Boutsianis, now has no rival.

His shot went in low to Bolton's right for the opening goal in the 38th minute.

Steve Laybutt then made that fateful tackle and knew his fate as soon as he heard the whistle.

Strikers would therefore be one goal down, and one man short for the full second half - and whatever time remained before the first had ended.

"I thought the red card was a

disgrace," said Strikers' coach John Kosmina after the game.

"He won the ball. It was a fair tackle."

But what was bad news for Strikers, got worse with the conceding of a second goal in a manner likely to be included in many blooper compilation tapes.

A South attack had meekly petered out when the ball went too far for anyone but the Strikers' sweeper who played a regulation ball back to Bolton.

Under no challenge, and with the nearest South player - Curcija - 20 metres away and wide to Bolton's right, Bolton shaped to kick the ball forward.

It skewed off the side of Bolton's boot right into the path of the startled Curcija, who should be given marks for his ability to collect himself when his receipt of the ball in those circumstances would have been the least likely outcome.

Curcija took a step, then looped the ball into the unguarded net for South's second.

As the whistle blew to end the half, Bolton's despair was palpable. Gwynne approached in an attempt to console the distraught keeper as they trudged off. Brisbane came out in the second half as fired up as in the first.

For a time, it was difficult to reconcile it was they who were a player short, such was the ease by which they seemed to find a spare player when in possession.

Sean Cranney, on as a substitute late in the first half, had two chances within two minutes of the restart. But South withstood the storm, and introduced John Anastasiadis - who had turned the Glory midweek game following his entry as a substitute - to eager anticipation with fifteen minutes remaining.

Just four minutes later Anastasiadis had worked his

magic to extend South's lead.

Curcija had sent through a ball which Anastasiadis seems to prefer, and allowed him to run at the defence.

He turned as he was tightly marked, and the ball seemed to stick underfoot, but he managed to send a lay-back in Coveny's direction.

Coveny blasted home from 15 metres to end the scoring and cement the victory.

South coach Ange Postecoglou was relieved to have come through the two games during the week with six points added to his team's tally.

"I'm delighted, considering the week we've had. A big game on Wednesday night which everyone was pumped for, and there was the danger of a let-down today when we could have let a team get under our guard."

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (Lozanovski, Curcija, Coveny)
BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Man of the Match: Goran Lozanovski SMEL**

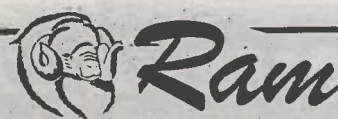
MATCH OFF

Persistent rain has forced the cancellation of the NSL match between the Newcastle Breakers and the Wollongong Wolves at Breakers Stadium in Newcastle.

The match has been postponed to the same venue at 7.30pm on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



RAM SPORTS

WORLD YOUTH CUP

Saturday 3 April

Group A
Nigeria 1 Costa Rica 1
Aghahowa 20 Melendez 83pen
Halftime: 1-0
Attendance: 45,000

Sunday April 4

Group A
Germany 4 Paraguay 0
Kern 45, 60, 69 Falk 89
Red card: Miguel Dominguez (Paraguay)
Halftime: 1-0
Attendance: 3,000

Group B
Ghana 1 Croatia 1
Ofori-Quaye 60 Deranja 22
Halftime: 0-1
Attendance: 5,000

Argentina 1 Kazakhstan 0
Cambiasso 44
Halftime: 1-0
Attendance: 5,000

Group C
Australia 3 Saudi Arabia 1
Culina 29 Mohammed 90
Maisino 70
own goal 76
Halftime: 1-0
Attendance: 3,000

Mexico 1 Ireland 0
Marquez 9
Halftime: 1-0
Attendance: 3,000

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Germany	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
2. Costa Rica	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
3. Nigeria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
4. Paraguay	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Argentina	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
2. Croatia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
3. Ghana	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
4. Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Australia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
2. Mexico	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
3. Ireland	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
4. Saudi Arabia	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

National Youth League

National Youth League
Round 27
Southern Division
Wednesday 31 March 1999
South Melbourne v VIS
(Match postponed, Round 25 catch-up game)

Thursday 1 April 1999
Bulleen Inter 1 Carlton 1
(Robert Ardesi) (Isayin Erdogan)

Saturday 3 April 1999
VIS v Albion Wodonga
(Rescheduled for Saturday, 17 April 1999 at 1 pm)

Sunday 4 April 1999
Gippsland Falcons 2 Melbourne Knights 0
(Alex Halikias, Michael Katz)

South Melbourne v Bye
Leading goalscorers
Southern Division
Andrew Mashoian South Melbourne 15
Deniz Ekici Carlton 9
Scott McDonald VIS 8
Tony Ouliaris Carlton 7
Angelo Moutsopoulos VIS 7

Northern Division
Friday 2 April 1999
Round 27
Newcastle Breakers v Wollongong Wolves

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 South Melbourne	26	16	6	4	49	25	54
2 Sydney United	24	15	3	6	45	31	48
3 Perth Glory	25	14	4	7	54	32	46
4 Northern Spirit	25	11	3	9	33	32	42
5 Sydney Olympic	25	12	6	7	43	31	42
6 Adelaide City	25	11	6	8	37	25	39
7 Marconi Fairfield	25	12	3	10	46	45	39
8 Brisbane Strikers	25	10	5	10	36	42	35
9 Newcastle Breakers	24	9	6	9	23	29	33
10 Carlton	26	9	4	13	45	43	32
11 Wollongong City	24	8	6	10	37	39	30
12 Adelaide Sharks	25	7	6	12	33	39	27
13 Melbourne Knights	25	6	5	14	27	38	23
14 Gippsland Falcons	25	5	7	13	15	42	22
15 Canberra Cosmos	25	4	2	19	20	50	14

(Postponed until Wednesday)

Saturday 3 April 1999
Marconi Fairfield 1 NSWIS 2
(Mark Hagger) (Simon Catanzaro, Anthony Doumanis)

Northern Spirit Colts 1 Northern Spirit 3
(John Turco) (Clint Mayberry, Daniel Watkins, Ryan Griffiths)

Wollongong Wolves Colts 0 Marconi Fairfield Colts 5
(Anthony Mondello 3, Daniel Lettieri, own goal)

Sydney United Colts 0 ACTAS 2
(Yosef Zamora, C Valeri)

Sunday 4 April 1999

Sydney Olympic Academy 2 QAS 2
(Andrew Durante, Damien Pisano) (Adam Webber, Russell Miner)

Sydney Olympic 3 AIS 3
(Leo Carle, Adrian Cervinski, Lee Miot) (Kevo Gulesserian 2, Joshua Kennedy)

Monday 5 April 1999
ACTAS v Sydney United
(Bruce Stadium, 5 pm)

Sydney United Colts v Bye

Leading scorers
Northern Division
Name Team Goals
Mark Hagger Marconi 21
Kevo Gulesserian AIS 20
Simon Catanzaro NSWIS 19
Daniel Kukucka Sydney United 14
Elias Demourtzidis AIS 13
Russell Miner QAS 12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2
(F Awaritefe 68'; K Trajanovski 80')
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Crowd: n/a
Referee: E Brazzale
Cautions: M Smith (MF) 21'; R Hooker (MF) 60'

ADELAIDE SHARKS 1
(A Duric 81')
ADELAIDE CITY 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Crowd: 3,982
Referee: G Connolly
cautions: D Kim (AC) 21'; M Hawrysiuk (AC) 33';
A Kuzmanovic (AS) 60'; P Mihalopoulos (AS) 88'

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1
(W Hastie 72')
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1
(G Arnold 43')

Venue: Mobil Park
Crowd: 1,500
Referee: J Blaney

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3
(C Kalantzis 19', 48'; N Carle 81')
CARLTON SC 2
(D Cervinski 7'; A Moriera 37')
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Crowd: 3,444
Referee: M Shield
Cautions: N/A

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3
(G Lozanovski 37'; M Curcija 45'; V Coveny 79')
BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Crowd: 8,892
Referee: E Lennie
Cautions: G Lozanovski (SM) 25'; S Laybutt (BS)
28'; K Wehrman (BS) 89'
Red Card: S Laybutt (BS) 45'

CANBERRA COSMOS v SYDNEY UNITED
Date: Monday, April 5, 1999
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Kick-off: 7:30pm

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v WOLLONGONG WOLVES
Postponed due to weather conditions.
Match to be played on Wednesday, April 7, 1999.
Kick-off: 7:30pm.

ACT

Smoke Free Youth Cup
Saturday March 27th
Pool A:
Weston Ck 0 University 2
Queanbeyan 0 University 2
Weston Ck 4 Queanbeyan 0
Pool B:
Juventus 1 Belconnen 1
Burns Club 0 Deakin 1
Juventus 1 Burns Club 0
Belconnen 0 Deakin 2
Juventus 1 Deakin 1
Belconnen 1 Burns Club 1
Pool C:
Monaro 0 Capital City Suns 0
Tuggeranong 5 Olympic 2
Monaro 1 Tuggeranong 4
Capital City Suns 0 Olympic 0
Capital City Suns 1 Tuggeranong 2
Monaro 0 Olympic 3
Semi-Finals:
Tuggeranong 0 Juventus 0
(Juventus won on penalties)
Deakin 0 University 1
Final:
Juventus 0 University 1
(in extra-time).

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
AIS	26	18	7	1	90	18	61
Sydney Olympic	25	18	3	4	83	27	57
Northern Spirit	25	17	2	6	54	22	53
NSWIS	25	16	3	6	64	26	51
Marconi Fairfield	24	15	5	4	71	18	50
Newcastle Breakers	24	15	5	4	55	25	50
Wollongong Wolves	24	15	2	7	74	27	47
QAS	24	13	2	9	66	40	41
Sydney United	24	8	4	12	42	42	28
Marconi Fairfield Colts	24	7	4	13	30	42	25
ACTAS	25	5	3	17	32	69	18
Northern Spirit Colts	25	4	3	18	23	93	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	25	3	5	17	23	94	14
Sydney United Colts	25	4	1	20	26	79	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	25	1	3	21	15	127	6

Southern Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Carlton	21	14	4	3	59	25	46
South Melbourne	20	11	3	6	33	20	36
Melbourne Knights	22	9	3	10	44	44	30
VIS	17	8	5	4	33	27	29
Gippsland Falcons	20	8	3	9	34	31	27
Bulleen Inter Kings	19	7	3	9	26	34	24
Albury Wodonga	19	1	1	17	18	66	4

QUEENSLAND

Queensland Premier League
Taringa Rovers 4 Mt Gravatt 2
Brisbane Lions 2 Gold Coast 2
Bundaberg Waves 1 Ipswich Knights 0
Wynnum 2 Brisbane City 0
Rosedale Rovers 0 Toowoomba United 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Brisbane Lions	7	5	2	0	19	11	17
Rosedale Rovers	7	5	0	2	20	9	15
Taringa Rovers	7	4	1	2	14	6	13
Bundaberg Waves	7	3	2	2	11	10	11
Brisbane City	6	3	0	3	11	11	9
Ipswich Knights	7	3	0	4	10	11	9
Gold Coast	7	2	3	2	12	17	9
Wynnum	7	2	0	5	9	17	6
Mount Gravatt	6	1	2	3	9	13	5
Toowoomba United	7	1	0	6	6	16	3

DIVISION 1 SOUTH
Redlands United 1
Inala City 2
Acacia Ridge 1
Rocklea United: bye
Slacks Creek 4
Olympic United 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rocklea United	5	5	0	0	30	9	15
Capalaba	5	5	0	0	13	3	15
Slacks Creek	7	3	1	3	15	20	10
Souths United	6	2	1	3	14	8	7
Inala City	6	2	1	3	12	8	7
Beenleigh	6	2	1	3	9	16	7
Redlands United	5	1	2	2	9	14	5
Olympic United	5	1	0	4	7	13	3
Acacia Ridge	5	0	2	3	5	13	2

DIVISION 1 NORTH
Albany Creek 3 Newmarket 4
Pine Rivers 1 North Star 2
Grange Thistle 1 Eastern Suburbs 0
Uni of Qld: bye
Mitchelton v The Gap postponed

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Albany Creek	6	5	0	1	16	9	15
North Star	6	4	0	2	16	10	12
Eastern Suburbs	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Newmarket	6	3	1	2	14	12	10
Uni of Qld	6	3	1	2	11	10	10
Pine Rivers	6	2	2	2	10	9	8
Grange Thistle	7	1	2	4	8	15	5
Mitchelton	5	1	1	3	7	10	4
The Gap	6	0	1	5	14	24	1

ILLAWARRA

Premier League: First Grade
Kemblawarra 2 Coniston 2
Port Kembla 1 Northern United 2
Bulli 3 Fernhill 0
Wollongong Olympic 3 Shoalhaven City 1
Lysaghts 3 Woonona 1

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SCOREBOARD

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bulli	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Wollongong Olympic	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Lysaghts	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Northern United	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Kemblawarra	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Coniston Lions	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Port Kembla	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Shoalhaven City	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Woonona	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Fernhill United	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Cringila Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Wollongong White Eagles have been expelled

Leading Ericsson Cup Scorers

- 17 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
- 13 Vaughan COVENY (SMEL)
- 13 Damian MORI (ADL)
- 13 Brad MALONEY (MARC)
- 11 Michael CURCIJA (SMEL)
- 11 John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)
- 11 Alex MOREIRA (CARL)
- 11 Mile STERJOVSKI (SUTD)
- 10 Ivan KELIC (MELK)
- 9 Francis AWARITEFE (MARC)
- 9 Peter BULJAN (CANB)
- 9 Con BOUTSIANIS (PRTH)
- 9 Archie THOMPSON (CARL, +4 GIPS)
- 8 Joel GRIFFITHS (SUTD)
- 8 Kresimir MARUSIC (SPRT)
- 7 Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (PRTH)
- 7 Derek POIMER (ADSH)
- 7 Norman TOME (SOLY)
- 7 Kris TRAJANOVSKI (MARC)
- 7 Robbie SLATER (SPRT)
- 7 Joe TRICARICO (CARL)
- 6 John ANASTASIADIS (SMEL)
- 6 Alistair EDWARDS (PRTH)
- 6 John GIBSON (ADSH)
- 6 Jeromy HARRIS (BRIS)
- 6 Brad HASSELL (ADLC)
- 5 Alex DURIC (ADSH)
- 5 Matt HORSLEY (WOLL)
- 5 Ivo de JESUS (CANB)
- 5 Chris KALANTZIS (SOLY)
- 5 Sasho PETROVSKI (WOLL)
- 5 Anthony SURJAN (WOLL)
- 5 Ray YOUNIS (WOLL)
- 4 Walter ARDONE (SUTD)
- 4 Graham ARNOLD (SPRT)
- 4 Zeljko BABIC (MARC)
- 4 Marco BRESCIANO (CARL)
- 4 John BUONAVOGLIA (NEWC)
- 4 Simon COLOSIMO (CARL)
- 4 Nathan DAY (SUTD)
- 4 Michael GARCIA (PRTH)
- 4 Chad GIBSON (MARC)
- 4 Troy HALPIN (PRTH)
- 4 Vas KALOGERACOS (PRTH)
- 4 Goran LOZANOVSKI (SMEL)
- 4 Stuart McLAREN (BRIS)
- 4 Reece TOLLENAERE (BRIS)
- 4 Carl VEART (ADLC)
- 4 Sang-Choi YOON (NEWC)
- 3 Corey ARTONE (ADSH)
- 3 Nick CARLE (SOLY)
- 3 Des HUGHES (BRIS)
- 3 Harry KARL (MELK)
- 3 Ice KUTLESOVSKI (MELK)
- 3 Lubo LAPANSKY (CARL)
- 3 Stephen LAYBUTT (BRIS)
- 3 Brian MacNICOL (GIPS)
- 3 Dino MENNILLO (ADLC)
- 3 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
- 3 Levent OSMAN (GIPS)
- 3 Greg OWENS (NEWC)
- 3 Joel PORTER (ADSH)
- 3 Shane PRYCE (NEWC)
- 3 Zeljko SUSA (MELK)
- 3 Paul TRIMBOLI (SMEL)
- 3 Daniel WATKINS (SPRT)
- 3 Clayton ZANE (SPRT)
- 2 Elias AUGERINOS (SOLY)
- 2 David BARRETT (SUTD)
- 2 Tansel BASER (SMEL)
- 2 Steve BERRY (SUTD)
- 2 Paul BILOKAPIC (SPRT)
- 2 Michael BROOKS (WOLL)
- 2 Jacob BURNS (SUTD)
- 2 Christian CARE (MARC)
- 2 David CERVINSKI (MELK)
- 2 Scott CHIPPERFIELD (WOLL)
- 2 Sean CRANNEY (BRIS)
- 2 Brett EMERTON (SOLY)
- 2 Will HASTIE (GIPS)



FLASHBACK to the 1993 World Youth Championship held in Australia

- 2 Tommy HAYTHORNTHWAITE (NEWC)
- 2 Chay HEWS (BRIS)
- 2 Ante JURIC (SOLY)
- 2 Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)
- 2 Pan KIM (MARC)
- 2 Wayne KNIPE (BRIS)
- 2 Andrew MARTH (CARL)
- 2 Esala MASI (WOLL)
- 2 Nick MEREDITH (BRIS)
- 2 Nick ORLIC (SMEL)
- 2 Jason POLAK (SMEL)
- 2 Paul REID (WOLL)
- 2 Mark RUDAN (SPRT)
- 2 Michael SANTALAB (SUTD)
- 2 Mike SMITH (MARC)
- 2 Dino TERMINELLO (ADLC)
- 2 Hamilton THORPE (ADSH)
- 2 Alex TOBIN (ADLC)
- 2 Danny VIDAKOVIC (ADSH)
- 2 Andy VLAHOS (CARL)
- 2 Kasey WEHRMAN (BRIS)
- 2 Mark WILSON (NEWC)
- 2 Chris ZORICICH (BRIS)
- 1 Richie ALAGICH (ADSH)
- 1 Ransford BANINI (MELK)
- 1 Sasho BECVINOVSKI (GIPS)
- 1 Clayton BELL (GIPS)
- 1 Matt BELL (BRIS)
- 1 Peter BENNETT (SUTD)

- 1 Matt BINGLEY (SPRT)
- 1 Louis BRAIN (ADLC)
- 1 Vinko BULJUBASIC (PRTH)
- 1 Joe CALETA (SUTD)
- 1 Alex CASTRO (ADSH)
- 1 Alvin CECCOLI (WOLL)
- 1 Adrian CERVINSKI (SOLY)
- 1 Giancarlo CIRCATI (PRTH)
- 1 David CLARKON (SMEL)
- 1 Ian CROOK (SPRT)
- 1 Jason CULINA (SOLY)
- 1 Michael CUNICO (SPRT)
- 1 Elias DEMOURTZIDIS (ADSH)
- 1 Saso DIMOSKI (WOLL)
- 1 Steve EAGLETON (UTD)
- 1 Robbie ENES (SPRT)
- 1 Andy HARPER (BRIS)
- 1 Danny HAY (PRTH)
- 1 Karl HROVJE (MELK)
- 1 Harry JAMES (NEWC)
- 1 Ivo de JESUS (CANB)
- 1 Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)
- 1 teve KARAVATAKIS (WOLL)
- 1 Hrovje KARL (MELK)
- 1 Alex KIRATZOGLOU (MELK)
- 1 Leo LANGONE (CANB)
- 1 Dominic LONGO (MARC)
- 1 Darren McDONALD (MARC)
- 1 Paul MAGDIC (MELK)

- 1 Anthony MAGNACCA (CANB)
- 1 Doug MARCINA (CANB)
- 1 Robbie MARKOVAC (CARL)
- 1 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
- 1 Branko MILOSEVIC (ADSH)
- 1 David MITCHELL (SUTD)
- 1 Gareth NAVEN (PRTH)
- 1 Jade NORTH (BRIS)
- 1 Steve PANOPOULOS (SMEL)
- 1 Marko PERINOVIC (GIPS)
- 1 Marcus PHILLIPS (MARC)
- 1 Richard PLESA (SUTD)
- 1 Tom PONDELJAK (MELK)
- 1 Adem PORIC (SPRT)
- 1 Gerard QUENNET (WOLL)
- 1 Joe RAHJER (MELK)
- 1 Michael REDA (WOLL)
- 1 Kosta SALAPASIDIS (WOLL)
- 1 Robert SHANNON (NEWC)
- 1 Marcus STERGIOPOULOS (CARL)
- 1 Noel SPENCER (WOLL)
- 1 Paul STRUDWICK (PRTH)
- 1 Danny TOWNSEND (SUTD)
- 1 Peter TSEKENIS (SOLY)
- 1 Jim TSEKINIS (SMEL)
- 1 Joe VRKIC (SUTD)
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